



GREAT EXPLORERS





ARCTIC

OCEAN

A S I A

NORTH

AMERICA

PACIFIC

SOUTH

AMERICA

OCEAN

AUSTRALIA

ANTARCTICA



ATLANTIC

EUROPE

ASIA

AFRICA

INDIAN

OCEAN

AUSTRALIA

OCEAN

ANTARCTICA

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STORY OF AMERICA

Great Explorers

Joyce Grosseck
Elizabeth Attwood

Joyce Grosseck is an author and editor of children's textbooks. She studied at Stephens College and the University of Missouri. Elizabeth Attwood attended Stephens College, and is a graduate of Northwestern University. She is also an author of books for children. Miss Attwood and Mrs. Grosseck have made an extensive study of the lives of great explorers and their achievements. From this research they are able to reconstruct some of the great discoveries of our world in a vivid, interesting manner that students will easily comprehend and enjoy.

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GREAT EXPLORERS



Joyce Grosseck
Elizabeth Attwood

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TO THE STUDENT

Why the social studies are important to you. During the next few years, you will make an important choice. You will choose whether or not you will direct your own life. Many people are never aware of making this choice. They drift through life, never really trying to understand what is going on around them or why things turn out the way they do. Without knowing it, these people have chosen not to direct their own lives. As a result, they miss many enriching experiences. Other people make a serious effort to choose a way of life that will bring them satisfaction. The chances are that you will have a more challenging life if you decide to live by choice instead of by chance.

You will need three types of knowledge to live successfully by choice. Living by choice will demand a great deal from you. You will have to keep growing in three different branches of knowledge — understandings, attitudes, and skills. The branch of learning we call understandings includes the kinds of information you need in order to understand yourself, your country, and your world. The branch of learning we call attitudes deals with the way you feel toward yourself and your world. The third branch of knowledge includes the different kinds of skills you need to use in gaining understandings and developing constructive attitudes. Among these skills are knowing how to locate and organize information, how to read with understanding, and how to work effectively with others.

The social studies can help you grow in the three branches of learning. Your social studies class is one of the best places in which you can explore the three branches of learning. Here you can obtain much of the information

you need for understanding yourself and your world. You can practice many important skills. Through many experiences, you can begin to evaluate what in life is worthwhile to you.

The problem-solving method will help you achieve success in social studies. Since the social studies are of such great importance, you want to use the best possible study method. Of course, you could just read a textbook and memorize answers for a test. If you did so, however, you would forget much of the information soon after the test was over. Your attitudes would not develop, and you would not have the opportunity to use many important skills. We suggest that you use a better way of studying. This is the problem-solving method. To use this method in learning about great explorers you will need to follow these steps:

1. **Do some general background reading** about the "Age of Discovery" or about some famous explorers.

2. **Choose an important, interesting problem** that you would like to solve about the "Age of Discovery" or about certain explorers. Write it down so that you will have clearly in mind what it is you want to find out. (Note the sample problems on the opposite page.) If there are small problems that need to be solved in order to solve your big problem, list them, too.

3. **Consider all possible solutions** to your problem and list the ones that seem most likely to be true. These possible solutions are called "educated guesses," or hypotheses. You will try to solve your problem by proving that these hypotheses are true or false. Some will be partly true and partly false.

4. **Find out which hypotheses are correct**, or partly correct, by doing research.

List the important information that is related to your hypotheses. If the information in different sources conflicts, check further and try to decide which information is correct.

5. Summarize what you have learned.

Have you proved or disproved your hypotheses? What new facts have you learned? Do you need to do further research?

You may want to write a report about the problem and the solution or solutions that you believe to be correct. To help other people share the ideas that you have come to understand, you may decide to illustrate your research project with maps, pictures, or your own drawings.

You can use the problem-solving method throughout your life. In addition to helping you to achieve success in the social studies, the problem-solving method can help you in another way. By using it, you will learn a way of dealing with problems that will be valuable to you throughout your life. Many successful scientists, businessmen, and government leaders use this method to solve problems.

Where you can find information for solving your problems about great explorers. When you have a problem to solve, you need all the information you can find to reach a correct solution. Following is a list of some of the places where you can find information about great explorers.

... This Depth-Study Textbook was written especially for students who are using the problem-solving method. To locate the specific information you want, you may use the Table of Contents and the Index.

... Many other textbooks have chapters about great explorers. These will give you a preview of the aspect of exploration you are investigating.

... Your school and community libraries contain many good sources of information, such as encyclopedias, atlases, magazines, and newspapers. The Readers' Guide and the library card catalog will help you find magazine articles and books about the subject you are investigating. Ask your librarian to show you how to use these reference guides.

... Other sources of information include museums, movies, filmstrips, portfolios of pictures, and recordings.

Sample problems to solve. You may wish to solve the following sample problems:

1. The journeys of the great explorers, from the early voyages of the Vikings to the well-planned expeditions of Peary and Amundsen, required unlimited courage. **Why did these men want to explore?** In forming your hypotheses, consider the following:
 - a. the desire to find an all-water route to the East
 - b. the desire for wealth
 - c. the desire to go where no man had ever been
 - d. the desire of European nations to claim new lands
2. Columbus is usually considered the discoverer of the New World. Nearly five hundred years before Columbus' voyage, however, the Vikings had sailed to America and tried to establish colonies there.

Why was Columbus' voyage more important than the voyages of the Vikings? In forming your hypotheses, consider the following:

- a. What resulted from the Vikings' discoveries?
- b. What facts about Marco Polo's journey help solve this problem?
- c. What effects did Columbus' voyage have on other explorers at that time?





Leif Ericson discovered America when a storm drove his ship off course during a voyage to Greenland.

CHAPTER ONE THE VIKINGS

About 1000 A. D.

Fierce winds drove a Viking* ship southwestward across the Atlantic Ocean. Sometimes the narrow, open ship with its bright-colored sail was almost hidden from sight by huge waves. Whenever the ship rose high on the crest of a wave, the dragon head on its bow was outlined against the darkened sky.

* Please see glossary, page 158.

9

The Vikings* reached America about 1000 A.D.
They named the beautiful new land they had
found Vinland, or "wine land."

A tall, fair-haired sailor gripped the large oar that steered the ship. His shoulders ached as he strained to hold his small ship steady in the choppy seas. This man was Leif Ericson, the son of a brave Viking chief, Eric the Red.*

A Viking ship. In small open ships, the Vikings made daring voyages to distant lands.



For many days and nights, Leif Ericson and his crew of thirty-five Vikings had been sailing across the stormy waters of the Atlantic. They had left Norway to return to their homes in Greenland, which Leif's father had discovered nearly twenty years before. However, a storm had forced the ship off its course. Twice during the voyage they had seen land far in the distance. Both times the storm had blown their tiny ship away from the land.

Finally the storm was over. Far to the west, Leif Ericson saw a dark outline against the horizon. "Land!" he shouted, pointing to the welcome sight. Slowly, the small ship approached a green, wooded coast.

When Leif and his men reached the shore, they looked at the tall, green trees. "How different this is from the cold, treeless coast of Greenland!" they thought. As they walked farther inland, they found wild grain growing in sunny meadows. In many places, thick vines were heavy with clusters of grapes. Leif and his men picked grapes and cut some of the grain to take back to their families and friends in Greenland. Then they began their long voyage homeward.

When Leif Ericson and his men reached their homes in Greenland, they told many people about the beautiful new land they had found. They described the tall trees that could be used to build houses and ships. They showed their friends the grapes they had found, which could be pressed to make wine. People called the new land Vinland, or "wine land." Today it is called America.

Other Vikings sailed to America during the years that followed. Some of them made their homes in the new country. However, the colonists were not happy. Hostile Indians sometimes attacked them. Soon the colonists returned to their homes in Iceland and Greenland.



An iceberg near Greenland. About 982 A.D., Eric the Red* discovered Greenland and settled there.

Norse* poets and storytellers made up stories and songs about the voyages of the Vikings of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. These ancient stories tell of fierce warriors who robbed and burned towns and villages along the western coast of Europe. Some of these warriors made their homes in the places they had conquered. Others sailed farther west. They settled in Iceland and Greenland.

It was about the year 1000 A.D. when Leif Ericson and his men made their voyage to the shores of North America. (See map below.) Many years passed, however, before people in other parts of the world heard about the Vikings' great discovery.

It is not strange that Greenland and America should be discovered by the brave Vikings. At a time when other men were afraid to sail the unknown seas, these fearless seamen ventured far out into the Atlantic Ocean. By the sun and the stars, they guided their tiny ships across the Atlantic and discovered new lands.

—DO YOU KNOW—

1. Who were the Vikings? From what countries in Europe did they come?
2. With the help of the pictures in this chapter, describe a Viking ship.
3. What name did the Vikings give to America? What does this name mean?
4. On the map below, find the islands that were colonized by Vikings.

Viking explorations. Some Vikings sailed westward to Iceland, Greenland, and North America.





In a prison at Genoa, Marco Polo dictated the story of his adventures in Asia to a fellow prisoner.

CHAPTER TWO

MARCO POLO

1254?-?1324

One autumn day in 1298, two men were sitting in a dark prison in the city of Genoa, Italy. One of the men was telling about his thrilling adventures in the faraway lands of Asia. The other man sat at a crude wooden table, writing down this story. Suddenly, the writer looked up at the storyteller in amazement. What he

* Please see glossary, page 158.

heard seemed almost unbelievable. But his companion nodded his head sharply and said, "I have not told you half what I have seen." This man was Marco Polo, who had been captured by the soldiers of Genoa during a war. His fellow prisoner, Rusticiano, smiled at the tall adventurer and continued writing.

Day after day, Marco Polo and his companion worked in their prison cell. As the weeks passed, many people in Genoa heard about

Marco Polo's travels took him to many lands. He was away from home twenty-four years.



Marco's adventures in distant lands. They visited him so that they could listen to his thrilling stories. Within a few months, Marco Polo was so famous that he was allowed to live outside the prison. By the time the war ended, Marco Polo had completed his book.

His story, *The Book of Marco Polo*, became famous in Genoa and Venice. Soon it was copied by hand in several languages. People throughout Europe were eager to learn about the mysterious lands of Asia. About two hundred years later, Marco Polo's book was printed. Then it was read by many more people in Europe.

For hundreds of years, Marco Polo's book inspired men to search for an all-water route to the lands he described. Prince Henry of Portugal read *The Book of Marco Polo* and became convinced that it was possible to reach the East* by sailing around Africa. Later, Vasco da Gama studied it before he sailed to India.

It was a bright April morning in the year 1271 when young Marco Polo began the journey that he so vividly described in his book. With his father and uncle, the seventeen-year-old boy sailed from Venice to Acre, on the coast of Palestine. (See map on page 15.) There they began their long journey across Asia to China. The travelers visited the colorful bazaars* in the city of Hormuz. From Hormuz, they traveled thousands of miles farther east. Some of the time the Polos traveled on horseback. At other times they rode camels or elephants. They journeyed across plains and rugged mountains. In 1275, after being away from home nearly four years, the weary travelers reached Shangtu,* China. (See map on page 15.) Here they were welcomed by the great Emperor of China, Kublai Khan.

The Emperor liked Marco Polo so well that he gave him many important duties. For three years, Marco Polo was governor of Yangchow, a busy Chinese city. The Emperor also sent him on



The Polos left Venice in 1271. Marco was only seventeen when he began his long journey to China.

many missions to distant parts of China. During his travels, Marco wrote vivid descriptions of the people he met and the places he visited. When he returned from these trips, Marco Polo told the Emperor all he had seen. Kublai Khan was pleased, for he was interested in learning more about the many peoples who lived in his vast empire.

Marco Polo served the Emperor of China for seventeen years. Finally, Marco, his father, and his uncle found an opportunity to



The Emperor welcomed the Polos to China. Their journey had taken nearly four years.

begin their journey home to Venice. The Khan of Persia* had asked Kublai Khan to send him a Chinese princess for a bride. The Emperor chose the three Polos to escort the princess on her long journey to Persia. After the Polos reached Persia, they went on to Venice. They had been away twenty-four years.

When the Polos knocked on the door of their home in Venice, the servants refused to let them in. They thought Marco and his father and uncle had died in China. Even the neighbors did not recognize them in their rough travel clothes and strange-looking hats. Finally, the Polos went to an inn.* There they thought of a plan. They invited all their friends and relatives to a great feast. Reluctantly, the servants at their home agreed that the feast could be held there. On the night of the banquet, the Polos wore costly robes and dazzling jewels. They entertained their guests

with stories of their adventures. After the guests had finished eating, the Polos cut open the hems of the rough clothes they had worn on their trip home. From the clothing fell sparkling diamonds, red rubies, emeralds, and pearls, which they had brought back from China.

By the end of the evening, nearly everyone at the feast believed that the travelers were truly their old friends, the Polos. Soon the news of their remarkable journey and great wealth was known in Venice and in many other cities.

The Polos brought back rubies, emeralds, diamonds, and other jewels from China.



Three years later, Marco Polo was taken prisoner during a war which Venice was fighting with Genoa. It was during the time that Marco Polo was imprisoned in Genoa that he wrote his great book.

DO YOU KNOW

1. Where was Marco Polo when he told the story of his travels? Who wrote it down?
2. In what way was Marco Polo's book important to later explorers?
3. With the help of the map on page 15, name the cities visited by Marco Polo.
4. How long did Marco Polo serve the Emperor of China?

The Great Wall* of China. In his book, Marco Polo described the countries he had visited in Asia.





Prince Henry of Portugal encouraged his sailors to find a sea route around Africa to the Indies.*

CHAPTER THREE

PRINCE HENRY THE NAVIGATOR

1394-1460

A light shone from the window of a tall stone tower overlooking the tiny harbor at Sagres,* Portugal. In the harbor, several ships were anchored. Their masts stood tall against the moonlit sky.

In the study room of the tower, Prince Henry was talking to a sea captain. He pointed to a large map on the table before them. "This map shows you the places along the African coast where my sailors have landed," the Prince said. "As you can see, our ships have sailed nearly two thousand miles along the western coast of Africa." Prince Henry leaned forward in his chair. "I want you to sail much farther south than any of my other sea captains," he said. "I believe that somewhere along the coast of Africa you may find a sea route to the rich lands of the Indies* that Marco Polo described in his book."

The sea captain shook his head doubtfully. "You may be right, Your Highness," he said, "but some of my men are afraid to sail so far south. No others have sailed those waters. Some think the sea there is boiling hot."

The tall Prince smiled and turned to the map. With his finger he followed the western coast of Africa. Then he said, "As you sail farther south the sun seems hotter, and the water of the sea is warmer. However, the sea does not boil. Tell your men not to be afraid. I shall reward them well if they succeed."

Prince Henry walked to the window and nodded toward the ships in the harbor below. "Take these ships and sail southward along the coast of Africa," he said to the captain. "Perhaps this time we shall find the sea route to the Indies."

Prince Henry became interested in Africa early in his life. Before he was eighteen years old, the young Prince sent ships to explore the coast of Africa. When he was twenty-one, he and his brothers led an army against the Moors* in North Africa.

By the time he was twenty-four, Prince Henry had decided to devote his life to learning more about Africa and the far-off lands of the Indies. He went to Sagres, a lonely spot at the southwestern



Prince Henry studied the sea and the positions of the stars at his observatory at Sagres.*

tip of Portugal. He built a small village high on a cliff overlooking a tiny harbor. Prince Henry worked and studied at Sagres for about forty years. He started a school and invited scholars, map makers, and geographers to come there. They studied the stars and the sea. They made maps of the coast of Africa. They trained seamen to use compasses to find in which direction their ships were sailing. They taught them to use other instruments such as the astrolabe* shown in the picture above. With the help of this instrument, sailors could find out where they were on the sea. The people of Portugal called the small village at Sagres "Prince's Town."



The Canary Islands. Prince Henry's sailors visited the Canary Islands, near the coast of Africa.

Later, their studious Prince became known as "Henry the Navigator."

Year after year, Prince Henry sent out ships to sail the vast Atlantic Ocean. His ships sailed farther and farther along the coast of Africa. Often his sailors stopped to explore the land along the coast. They claimed these lands for Portugal. In some places, Prince Henry's sailors built forts and traded with the people.

His sea captains met travelers and merchants who told them of their journeys through the great continent of Africa. Prince Henry was sure that his men could find a sea route around Africa if they sailed far enough.

Prince Henry died in 1460, but the Portuguese continued to search for an all-water route to India.

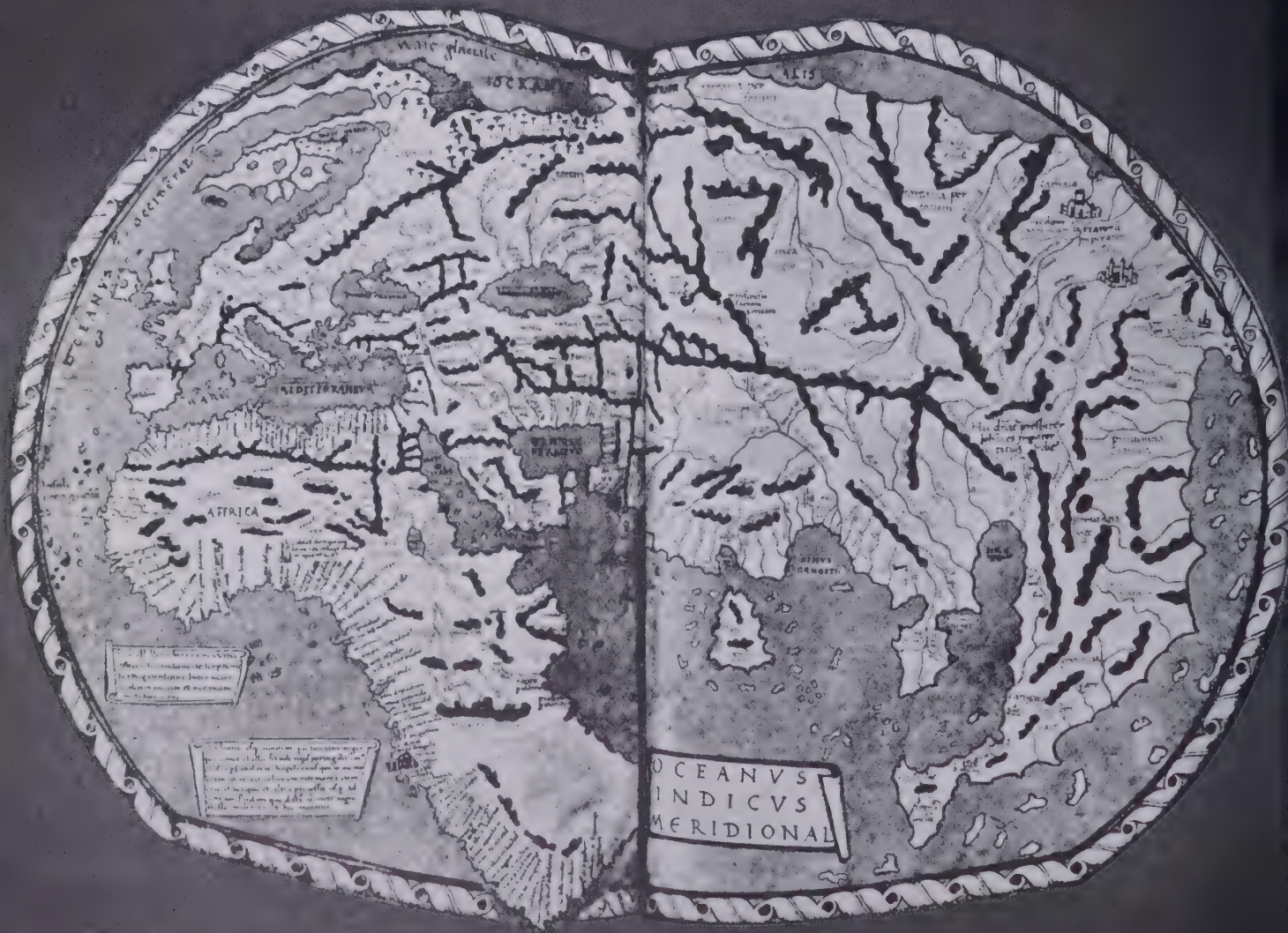


It was not until after Prince Henry had died, however, that Portuguese ships finally sailed around Africa and reached India. This voyage was made by a great seaman named Vasco da Gama. Prince Henry's maps and studies made possible this voyage and the voyages of many other explorers. The ships Prince Henry sent to explore the coast of Africa began the great "Age of Discovery," which continued for over two hundred years.

DO YOU KNOW

1. What did Prince Henry hope his sea captains would discover by sailing far southward along Africa's coast? Why were some of the sailors afraid?
2. Tell what Prince Henry did to learn more about geography and navigation.
3. Name an important voyage of exploration made possible by Henry's studies and maps.

A map drawn in 1492. The voyages of Prince Henry's sailors began a period of great exploration.





Columbus left Spain on August 3, 1492. He sailed westward to find a new route to the Indies.*

CHAPTER FOUR

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

1451-1506

Three small ships sailed westward across the Atlantic Ocean. Frightened sailors shivered and grumbled as mighty waves pounded against their ships and crashed onto the decks. Some of the men were thankful that they had made their commander promise to turn back the next day.



The "**Santa Maria**," the "**Niña**," and the "**Pinta**" carried Columbus and his men across the Atlantic.

Tall, white-haired Christopher Columbus stood calmly and quietly on the deck of the largest ship. He was looking so intently into the night that he hardly seemed to notice his grumbling sailors. No maps could show him what lay ahead. However, he felt certain that he would find what he was seeking. Columbus heard the high, clear voice of the ship's boy calling out the time. It was two o'clock in the morning, October 12, 1492.

Suddenly a sailor shouted, "Land! Land!" For a moment, everyone was silent. Could it be true? Soon all the men on the ships

could see a white, sandy beach gleaming in the moonlight. A mighty cheer rose from the sailors. "Thanks be to God," said Columbus. "I have found the westward route to the Indies."*

As the sun rose that morning, the three ships sailed toward a beautiful, green island. Columbus ordered his men to anchor the ships in a sheltered harbor. Then he went ashore with some of his men, proudly carrying the royal flag of Spain. On the beach, the sailors saw curious, brown-skinned people. The Spaniards had never seen men like these. Since Columbus thought he was near India, he called them "Indians." As the Indians watched in amazement, the sailors knelt and thanked God for bringing them safely

Columbus first saw the New World on October 12, 1492. He believed that he had reached the Indies.



to land. Columbus rose slowly, raised his sword, and claimed the land in the name of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. He named the small island San Salvador. (See map on page 34.)

For three months Columbus sailed from island to island, searching for the great cities of the East.* He was certain that there were rich cities nearby, where he would find gold, spices, and precious jewels. Although Columbus found only a few poor villages in the wilderness, he was not discouraged. He traded with the Indians for parrots, cotton, and arrows to take back to Spain.

Columbus landed on San Salvador and claimed the island in the name of the King and Queen of Spain.





Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain listened eagerly as Columbus told them about his voyage.

Then he built a fort on the island of Haiti* and left some of his men there to search for gold. Finally, on January 4, 1493, Columbus sailed for home.

After he reached Spain, Christopher Columbus rode on horseback to the city of Barcelona. Cheering friends met the handsome explorer, who had been gone for more than seven months. As Columbus entered the royal court, even the King and Queen rose to welcome him. Then they listened with excitement as Columbus told them what he had seen on his long voyage. The King and Queen were pleased with Columbus and gave him the title "Admiral of the Ocean Sea."

No one knows when Christopher Columbus first dreamed of reaching the rich lands of the East by sailing westward. When he



Young Christopher Columbus lived in the port city of Genoa, Italy. Later he became a sailor.

was a boy, he lived in the port city of Genoa, Italy. He spent many hours at the busy harbor, watching the ships come and go. When Christopher was about twenty years old, he became a sailor. During his voyages to Spain, Portugal, and Ireland, he taught himself to speak and read Spanish and Latin. Now he could talk to other sailors and read exciting geography books. In Portugal, Columbus heard many people talking about the Indies. He learned that the Portuguese were trying to reach these rich lands by sailing eastward, around Africa. By the time he was thirty-three, Christopher Columbus had decided that he would find a trade route to the Indies by sailing westward across the Atlantic Ocean.

Columbus spent many years trying to obtain money to make this voyage. His brother Bartholomew talked with the King of England

and the King of France. Columbus visited Portugal and Spain to explain his plan to the advisers of the rulers of these countries. These wise men agreed that the earth was round. However, some thought explorers would find a shorter route to India by sailing eastward, around Africa. "Why waste money on a voyage that has so little chance of success?" they asked their kings. Others decided that Columbus was too greedy for money and honors. No other explorer had asked for so much. Columbus wanted a large share of the riches of any lands he might discover. He also asked to be made an admiral and the governor of these new lands.

Queen Isabella of Spain was the only ruler interested in his idea. However, she could not send out an expedition at that time, because Spain was at war with the Moors.* The Queen told Columbus that she would consider his plan when the war was over.

Columbus persuaded Queen Isabella of Spain to give him ships and supplies for his westward voyage.





Columbus' first voyage. On later voyages he sailed along the coasts of Central and South America.

Columbus waited for about six years. At last the Moors were driven from Spain. Then, in 1492, Queen Isabella gave Christopher Columbus the men and ships he needed to make his voyage.

After his first voyage, Columbus sailed westward across the Atlantic three more times. He took brave colonists to Haiti and built a town, which he named Isabella. On his next trip, he explored part of the coast of South America and some islands nearby. During his last voyage, Columbus sailed along the coast of Central America. He was still searching for a water passage to the Indies. Near the island of Jamaica,* his ships were wrecked. Columbus and his men lived on this island for a year before they were rescued. Then Columbus returned to Spain, tired and disappointed.

Christopher Columbus died believing that the riches of the Indies lay just beyond the lands he had discovered. However, his success encouraged other explorers to learn more about our world.

—DO YOU KNOW—

1. Where did Columbus live as a boy? How old was he when he became a sailor?
2. Why was it so difficult for Columbus to obtain the money for his first voyage westward across the Atlantic? What ruler finally agreed to help him?
3. Where did Columbus land on his first voyage? How many voyages did he make?

A monument to Columbus on San Salvador. Columbus first landed on this small island, near Cuba.





John Cabot sailed from England to find a new route to the Indies.* He reached North America instead.

CHAPTER FIVE JOHN CABOT

1450-1498

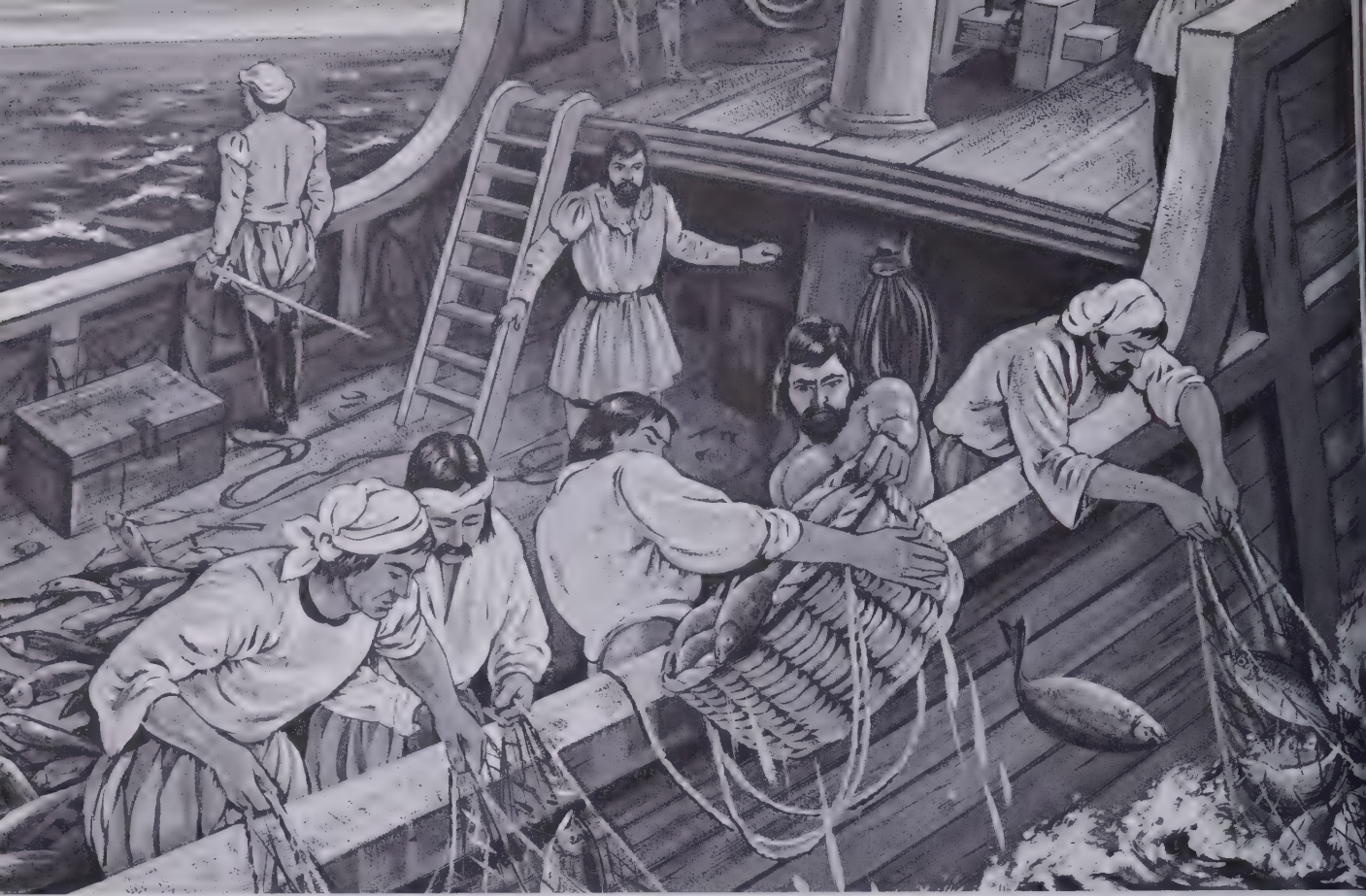
Captain John Cabot's small ship sailed slowly out of the harbor of Bristol, England. Merchants and friends stood on the shore and waved farewell to the eighteen men aboard. "Heave to, lads!" the first mate shouted to the crew. "We'll soon be home again with gold and jewels from the Indies!"* The men cheered, and eagerly went about their duties. None of them knew that their discoveries would bring England far greater wealth and power than the riches of the Indies. Even John Cabot did not dream that he would raise England's flag on the shores of an unknown continent.

After sailing past Ireland, Captain Cabot guided his ship northward and then westward. He believed that this would take him to the rich cities of the Indies. Four years earlier, he had heard that Christopher Columbus had reached the Indies by sailing westward. However, Columbus had not seen the cities where spices, jewels, silks, and gold could be found. Cabot had asked King Henry VII of England if he could sail westward to the Indies and find these rich cities. The King had agreed to this plan. However, he ordered Cabot to sail far north of the route taken by Columbus. All the lands Columbus had discovered belonged to Spain.

Captain Cabot sailed westward for nearly seven weeks. One day, as Cabot stood on deck, he was startled by the loud cry of one of

John Cabot asked permission from the King of England to sail westward across the Atlantic Ocean.





Cabot's men found the sea near North America so full of fish that they could scoop them up in baskets.

his men. "Captain!" the man shouted. "The sea is swarming with fish!" Cabot and his men crowded to the ship's rail and looked down into the choppy water. Never had they seen so many fish in one place! The excited men quickly dropped nets overboard. Soon they pulled them up again, filled with hundreds of shiny fish. Some of the crew lowered baskets into the ocean and scooped up salmon, sole, and cod. Cabot did not speak as he stared across the waters of the ocean. He knew that fish often swim in shallow waters near land. "Perhaps," he thought, "we are near our goal at last."

As the sun rose on the morning of June 24, 1497, John Cabot saw a dark outline against the horizon. "Land!" he shouted. "I see land! At last we have reached the Indies!" Some of his men ran to the ship's rail. "Soon," they thought, "we will see the wondrous cities of the East."*

When they neared the coast, however, the men saw that thick, green forests covered much of the land. There were no cities, or busy ports crowded with trading ships. All was quiet and peaceful.

John Cabot ordered his crew to anchor the ship in a sheltered harbor. Then he went ashore with some of his men. They noticed that some of the trees had been cut down with crude axes. They also found snares that had been set to catch wild animals.

Cabot led his men to the top of a nearby hill. Solemnly, he raised the flag of England and watched it billow in the fresh, summer breeze. Cabot looked all around him. "I claim this land in the name of King Henry VII of England," he said. Little did John Cabot know that instead of reaching the Indies, he had landed at Cape Breton Island, near the mainland of North America.

The coast of Nova Scotia.* John Cabot explored much of the east coast of North America.



Cabot and his men sailed along the coast of North America for about three weeks. Sometimes they stopped and explored the land. Finally, there was only a little food left, and Cabot decided to return to England. Although they had seen no cities or people, he was not discouraged. "We shall find the rich cities when we can sail farther south along this coast," Cabot told his crew. Then the explorers began the long voyage home.

When John Cabot arrived in London, he had nothing to show the King except a bone needle* and some of the snares that he had found. However, the King was pleased to hear about the land Cabot had claimed for England. He rewarded him with money and promised to provide ships and men for a second voyage westward.

In 1498, John Cabot tried once again to find the rich cities of the East. This time he took five ships and a large supply of cloth, lace, and other goods. Cabot hoped to exchange these goods for spices and precious stones when he reached the great trading centers of the Indies.

Cabot explored the southeastern and southwestern coasts of Greenland during this voyage. Then he turned westward to the mainland of North America. (See map on opposite page.) For many weeks, Cabot sailed southward along the coast. Sometimes he stopped and traded with the Indians. Instead of silks, jewels, or spices, the Indians brought only furs to trade with the explorers. Still, Cabot was determined to find the glittering cities and busy trading centers of the Indies. He followed the coastline southward, past the region that is now New York. Finally, his supply of food was nearly gone. Disappointed, Cabot returned to England.

It was many years later that explorers realized that the land Cabot had reached was not a part of Asia, but a vast new continent. At first, the great continent of America was only an obstacle

to explorers who searched for a western route to the Indies. Many years later, however, England learned the value of Cabot's great discovery. English colonists came to make their homes in the lands Cabot claimed along the eastern coast of North America. At one time, England claimed the northern part of the continent of North America because of John Cabot's great voyages.

DO YOU KNOW

1. What did Cabot hope to find by sailing westward across the Atlantic Ocean?
2. Tell why Cabot sailed north of the route taken by Columbus.
3. How many voyages did Cabot make? Trace them on the map below.
4. How did Cabot's voyages to America benefit England?

Cabot's voyages to North America gave England a claim to lands in the New World.





The Cape of Good Hope. Storms damaged Da Gama's ships near the Cape of Good Hope.

CHAPTER SIX

VASCO DA GAMA

1469?-1524

Vasco da Gama stood on the deck of his small ship. Rain lashed his face and soaked through his clothes. It was late in November, in 1497. More than four months had passed since he had left Lisbon,* Portugal, with four small ships. He had sailed southward through the Atlantic Ocean for thousands of miles. (See map on page 49.) Terrible storms had damaged his ships, but they had sailed on. Finally, they had sailed around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa.



“What lies ahead?” Da Gama wondered, as he stared into the rain and darkness. He could only guess, for no other Europeans had ever sailed this far beyond the southern tip of Africa.

Vasco da Gama was not afraid of the unknown seas. He faced a greater danger aboard his ships. His men were frightened, and talked of seizing the ships and turning back. At the thought, his eyes blazed with anger. Da Gama knew that somewhere beyond him to the east was India. He would find it, or never return to Portugal!

Now, one of the ships in the fleet sailed nearer. On the deck, Da Gama could see the ship’s captain. Then he heard the captain shout, “We must turn back, or our men will kill us and sail the ships home themselves!”

Vasco da Gama was angry. “How could my bravest captain make this request?” he wondered. Then he thought, “He must be trying to warn me that this is what the men are planning to do. I must act quickly or we shall never reach India.”

Soon Da Gama thought of a plan. He called his crew together. “If I agree to turn back to Portugal,” he told the grumbling sailors, “you must sign a paper telling the King that you forced me to do this.” Eagerly, the men agreed. Then Da Gama chose the sailors who knew how to guide the ships home. He ordered them to go to a cabin below deck. When they gathered in the cabin to sign the paper, however, the door was suddenly thrown open. There stood several of Da Gama’s loyal men, armed with pistols. Quickly, they seized the sailors in the cabin and put them in chains. Then Da Gama gathered all the instruments they had used to guide the ships through the vast Atlantic Ocean. Standing before his crew, he held the instruments high over his head. Then he turned and threw them into the sea.



Da Gama threw the ships' instruments overboard to prevent his men from sailing home.

"Now," Vasco da Gama said sternly, "we shall sail with God as our pilot. If we deserve His mercy, we shall come safely to India." The fearless Vasco da Gama had left his men no choice. They could not turn back. They could only follow him onward.

For more than four months, the small fleet sailed northward along the east coast of Africa. During the voyage, the ships stopped at several places along the coast. Finally, in April of 1498, they reached the town of Malindi. (See map on page 49.) Here Da Gama and his men traded with friendly Indian merchants. The merchants provided them with a skilled Arab* seaman to guide their ships across the Indian Ocean.



From Malindi,* Vasco da Gama's ships sailed eastward across the Indian Ocean to India.

Vasco da Gama and his men sailed eastward across the Indian Ocean for over three weeks. At last they heard the lookout shout, "Land ho!" There before them lay India, shadowy and purple against the horizon. Vasco da Gama and his men knelt down on the deck and thanked God for bringing them safely to their destination. Then Da Gama rose and looked at the land before him. He, Vasco da Gama, had found the sea route to the rich lands of the East.* Eagerly, Da Gama and his men sailed on. Soon they could see wide beaches along India's southwestern shores. For a day and a night, the fleet sailed southward along the coast. At last, early on the morning of May 20, 1498, Vasco da Gama arrived at the city of Calicut, India.

When the Portuguese explorers reached the busy harbor at Calicut, they saw many ships crowding the water front. Their bright-colored sails billowed in the warm breeze. Sailors were unloading cargoes of cinnamon, cloves, ginger, and pepper from many of the other ships in the harbor. Da Gama was eager to take back some of these valuable spices to Portugal.

Vasco da Gama visited the ruler of Calicut. He told him that the King of Portugal wanted their countries to be friends and to trade with one another. He said that Portugal would send ships loaded with gold, silver, and cloth to India. In return, Portuguese ships would take back spices and precious stones. The ruler was friendly. It seemed to Da Gama that he would agree to this plan.

When the Arab merchants in Calicut heard about Da Gama's visit, however, they were angry. They did not want the ruler to allow the Portuguese to trade in Calicut. These merchants had been sending spices and jewels over slow, dangerous routes to the countries of Europe for many years. They knew that Da Gama had discovered a better, all-water route to India. They were afraid that Portugal would send many ships to take back cargoes of spices and precious stones. This would ruin their profitable business. They tried to convince the ruler that Portugal wanted to conquer India.

Although Vasco da Gama remained in Calicut for more than three months, he could not persuade the ruler to trade with Portugal. However, the ruler did agree that Da Gama could buy enough spices and jewels to fill his ships. In August, Da Gama decided to return to Portugal.

In September of 1499, after having sailed nearly 24,000 miles, Vasco da Gama arrived home. When he sailed into the harbor at Lisbon, the King of Portugal was waiting to welcome him. The King had already heard the news that Da Gama had found an



In India, Vasco da Gama visited the ruler of Calicut. He told him that Portugal wanted to trade gold, silver, and cloth for spices and jewels.

eastern route to India. He listened eagerly while Da Gama told him of the spices and jewels he had brought back with him. The King honored Vasco da Gama by making him a nobleman. Later he gave him the title "Admiral of the Indian Seas," and the right to trade in India.

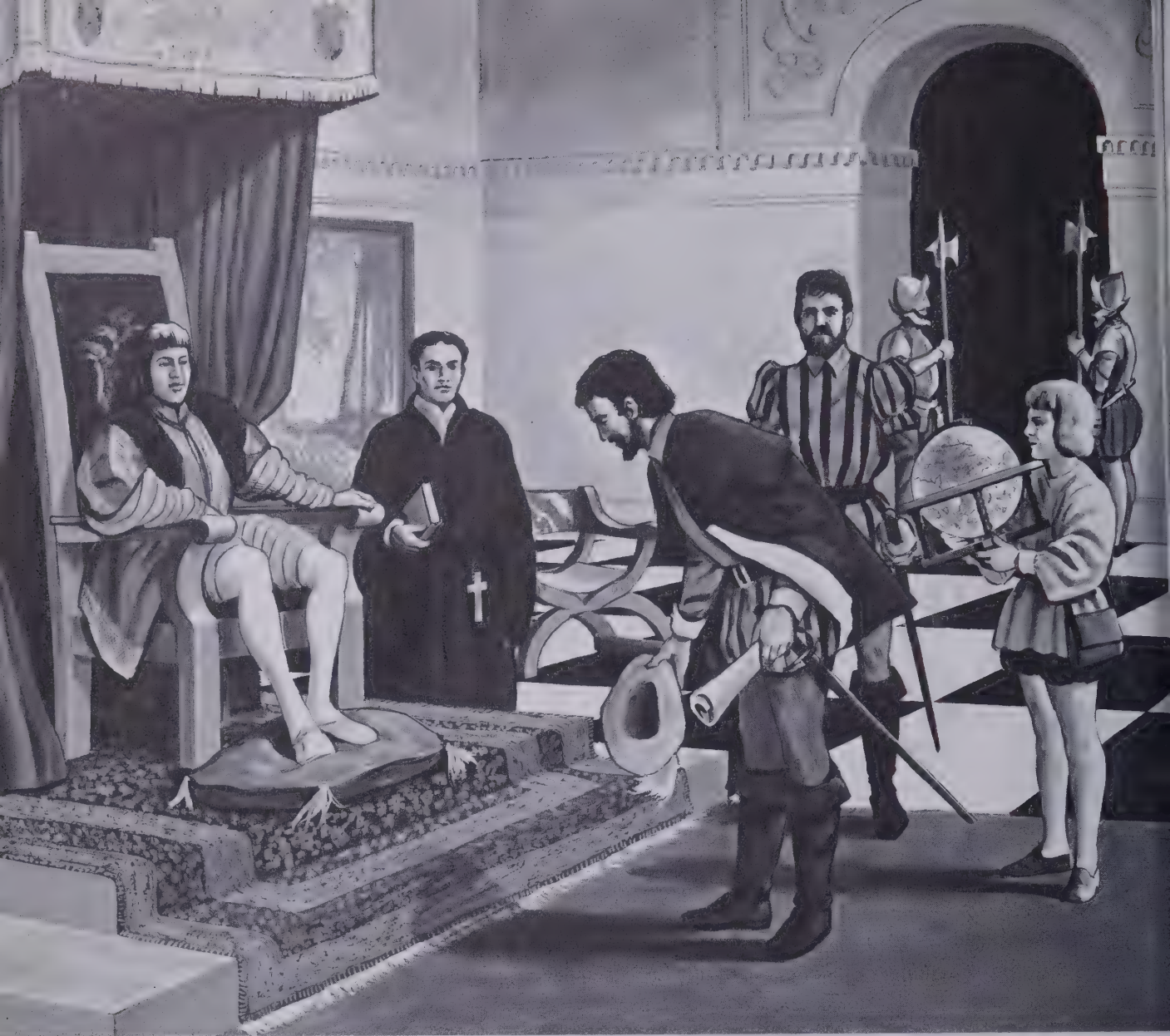
Vasco da Gama's discovery of the sea route to India brought wealth and honor to himself and to his country. For the first time, Europeans could sail by an all-water route to the rich lands of the East.

—DO YOU KNOW—

1. What did Da Gama hope to accomplish by sailing around the Cape of Good Hope?
2. Tell what Da Gama did to prevent his frightened sailors from turning back.
3. With the help of the map below, trace Da Gama's voyage to India.
4. What were the results of Da Gama's voyage, for Portugal and for himself?

Vasco da Gama's voyage made it possible for Europeans to reach the rich lands of the East* by water.





Ferdinand Magellan told the King of Spain that he could reach the Spice Islands* by sailing west.

CHAPTER SEVEN

FERDINAND MAGELLAN

1480?-1521

A Portuguese sea captain bowed before the King of Spain. “Your Majesty,” he said, “I am Ferdinand Magellan.” Young King Charles smiled at the rugged seaman. “I have heard of you,” the King said. “Why have you come to see me?”

“Your Majesty,” said Magellan, “when I was a soldier fighting against the Arabs* in Africa and India, I saw Portuguese ships carrying back great fortunes in silks and jewels to my country. Later, I visited the East Indies* while I was an officer in the Portuguese navy. There, I saw huge quantities of nutmeg, cloves, and other spices being loaded on sailing ships to be taken back to Portugal. The treasury of Portugal now overflows with gold from this profitable trade with the East.* I have a plan that will make it possible for Spain to share in this trade.”

The young King nodded his head thoughtfully. “I would be most interested in such a plan,” he said, “but Spain has a solemn treaty with Portugal. In this treaty we agreed on a boundary line that

Magellan found a westward route to Asia and proved that the world is round.



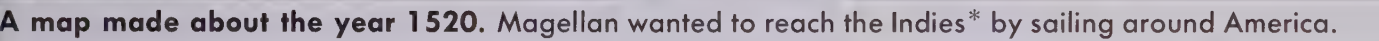
would run all the way around the world. This line divides the world into an eastern half and a western half. (See map on page 51.) Portugal may trade with lands that are in the eastern half, and Spain may trade in the west. The spices come from Portuguese territory. Spaniards do not have the right to sail there."

Magellan looked boldly at the Spanish King. "All the spices that Portuguese ships bring from the Indies come from a group of islands called the Spice Islands,"* he said. "I am convinced that these islands are on Spain's side of the boundary line and, therefore, belong to Spain."

The captain's eyes flashed as he continued, "I explored these islands myself," he said. "I made careful observations of the sun and the stars to determine their exact location. I secretly visited the royal chartroom of the palace at Lisbon* to study maps and reports made by other Portuguese sailors. I am certain that the Spice Islands belong to Spain and not to Portugal. I told this to my King, but he would not listen to me. He became so angry that he no longer wants my service or my loyalty. Now I ask your permission to sail to the Spice Islands. When I return, my ships will be filled with valuable spices for Spain."

King Charles frowned thoughtfully. "How will you reach the Spice Islands?" he asked. "You cannot sail around Africa. The route which Vasco da Gama discovered is carefully guarded by the Portuguese. (See map on page 49.) Portugal now controls much of the coasts of Africa and India. Its powerful navy would capture Spanish ships that sailed those waters."

Ferdinand Magellan held up a large, leather globe on which were painted the lands and seas of the world that were known at that time. He pointed to the vast continent of South America. "Your Majesty," said Magellan, "I plan to sail westward across



The King nodded thoughtfully. Then he asked, “What if you cannot find this passage?”

53

“If I must, I shall sail around America in the same way. Nothing will stop me. I will bring honor to you and glory to Spain.”

The courageous sea captain had convinced the King. Rising from his throne, the King said, “Ferdinand Magellan, you shall have ships, crewmen, and supplies for your voyage westward to the Indies. May God go with you.”

On a warm August morning in 1519, five ships sailed from Seville,* Spain. Standing on the deck of the flagship was Ferdinand Magellan. He guided his fleet across the vast Atlantic Ocean. On November 29, Magellan saw the coast of South America. (See map on page 51.)

For several weeks, the ships sailed down this rugged coast. Then they anchored in a beautiful bay, near the place where the city of Rio de Janeiro* is now located. There, the sailors went ashore to

Rio de Janeiro Bay, Brazil. Magellan landed at this bay in South America in December, 1519.





The Río de la Plata.* Magellan explored many bays and rivers along the coast of South America.

get food and water. Two weeks later, Magellan and his men continued southward. They explored many bays and rivers, searching for a passage to the western sea. By March it was cold and stormy, for soon the South American winter would begin. Magellan led his ships into a sheltered bay. He named it San Julián.* Here the Spaniards met natives who were so large that they looked like giants. Magellan called these people Patagonians,* which means “big feet.”

By this time, many of the men were tired and wanted to return to Spain. They complained that there was not enough food. Some of them planned to kill Magellan, but he discovered their plot. “We will sail southward,” Magellan told his men, “even if we have to eat the leather of the ships’ riggings!”

In October, Magellan reached a large bay. He sent two ships ahead to explore it. They returned with joyous news. They had found a deep, narrow passageway that led westward. This was the route to the western sea. Magellan led his fleet into the narrow, winding channels of this rocky strait. The sailors on the largest ship deserted their commander and sailed back to Spain. This left only three ships in Magellan's fleet, for one had been wrecked on the coast of South America. At last, after traveling more than 350 miles through the strait, Magellan saw the great western sea.

The small fleet sailed out of the strait into the calm waters of the vast ocean. Magellan named this ocean the Pacific, which

The Strait of Magellan. Magellan found this waterway that connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.





Magellan led his small fleet through the Strait of Magellan into the Pacific Ocean.

means “peaceful.” The ships sailed northward and then westward for more than three months. Only once in this time did the sailors find an island where they could get food and water. Even their drinking water was stale and yellow. Soon there was no more food, and the sailors searched anxiously for a place to land. They became so hungry that they ate rats and sawdust. Finally, the starving men dragged the ships’ riggings in the ocean. Then they cooked the water-softened leather and ate it greedily.



Magellan reached the Philippine Islands on March 16, 1521.

Magellan watched the horizon ahead and prayed that they would see land soon. By the time the ships reached a group of islands, most of the sailors were sick. Many had died. Magellan and his men remained at these islands for a few days to rest and gather food. Then they continued westward until they reached the Philippines.* Most of the natives here were friendly. However, one native chieftain declared war. On April 27, 1521, Ferdinand Magellan was killed in a battle with the Islanders.

The Magellan Monument on Mactan Island in the Philippines. Magellan was killed on this island.



After the death of their leader, Magellan's men sailed on to the Spice Islands. Then, Juan Sebastián del Cano* and his men loaded one ship with valuable spices and sailed westward across the Indian Ocean.* Finally, they sailed round the southern tip of Africa and turned northward, toward Spain. Three years had passed since the fleet had left home. Ferdinand Magellan had accomplished what he set out to do. Not only did he find a westward route to the Indies, but also one of his ships, the *Victoria*, was the first to sail around the world.

—DO YOU KNOW—

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Why did Magellan want to reach Asia? Why didn't he sail around Africa? | 3. On the map on page 51, trace the route followed by Magellan's fleet. |
| 2. How did Magellan know that there was a great ocean between America and Asia? | 4. What did Magellan's voyage prove beyond all doubt? Who led his men back to Spain? |

Sebastián del Cano* sailed the "Victoria" back to Spain after Magellan's death.





Jacques Cartier hired fishermen from Saint-Malo* to help him search for a waterway to the Indies.*

CHAPTER EIGHT

JACQUES CARTIER

1491-1557

On a dark night in 1534, two ships were anchored near some small fishing boats in the harbor at Saint-Malo,* France. From the captain's cabin on one of the ships came the rumble of men's voices.

Lantern light flickered across the faces of several men who were seated around a large table in the center of the cabin. The men

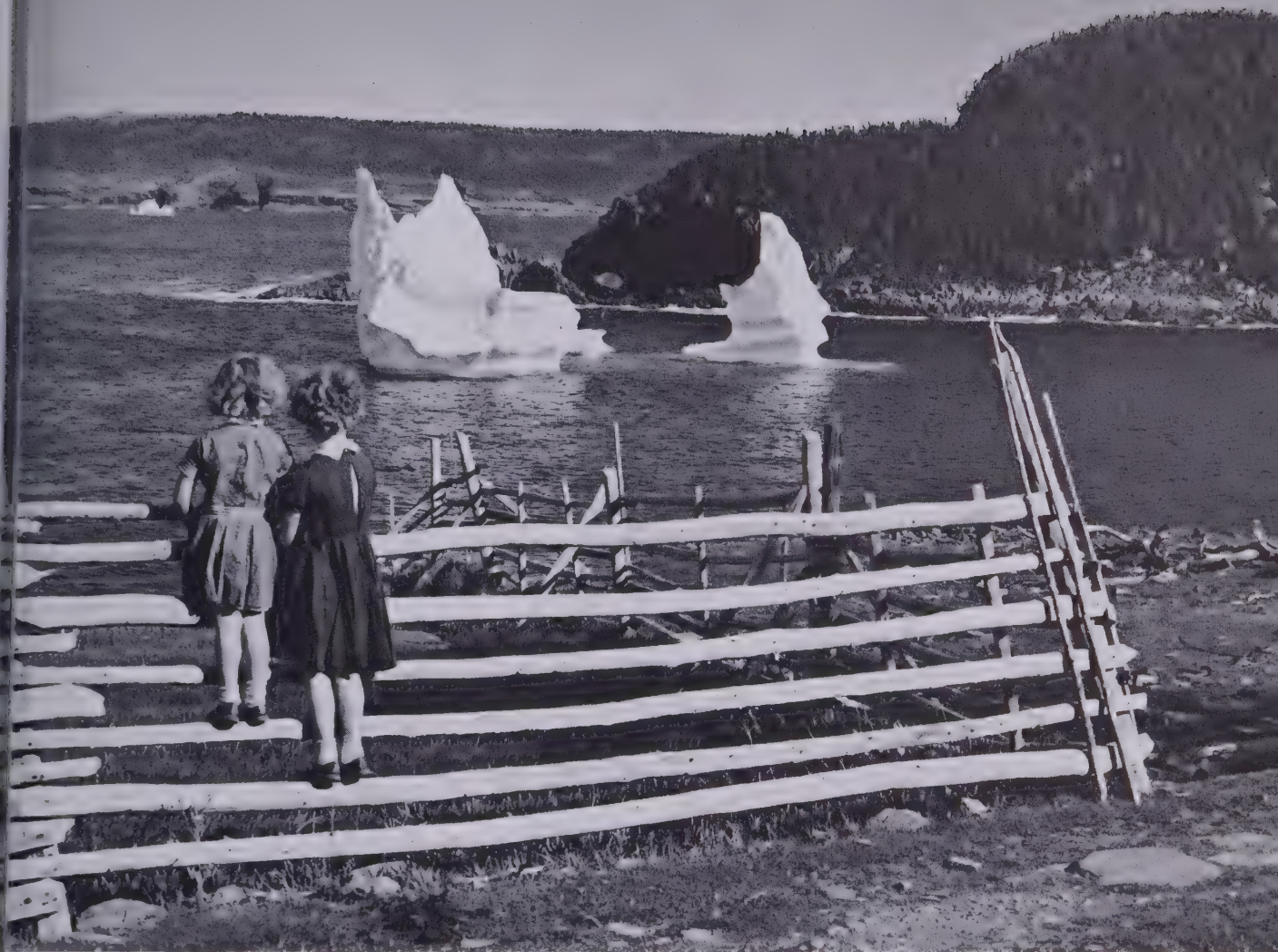
stopped talking and looked at each other uneasily, as the captain of the ship rose from his chair to speak. "Men," said Jacques Cartier quietly, "I am sure you know why I have asked you here. By now, many people in Saint-Malo know that the King of France has ordered me to sail west of Newfoundland to search for a sea route to the Indies.* He hopes that I will discover islands and countries where gold and other riches may be found. For this voyage, the King has given me money to hire two ships and a crew." Cartier paused for a moment, as he looked at each of the men before him. "I want you to sail with me on this voyage," he said. "Each of you will be well paid."

One of the men said quickly, "We are sailors and fishermen, not explorers!" The others nodded in agreement. "It is not that we do not trust you, Captain Cartier," the fisherman continued, "but this voyage is too dangerous. Each spring we sail to the fishing grounds near Newfoundland and come home with boatloads of fish. During these voyages, we have seen great icebergs near Newfoundland's eastern coast. Some explorers have sailed farther west into the foggy, ice-filled waters beyond Newfoundland and have never returned. We do not want to share their fate."

"Aye!" the rest of the men muttered. "We will not go."

Captain Cartier held up his hand to silence them. "There is one thing you men do not know," he said. "I have received another order from the King. This order will be read tomorrow before all of the people of Saint-Malo. It says that not one ship or fishing boat may leave this harbor until I have hired a crew."

"If we cannot fish, our families will starve!" said the men. Angrily, the fishermen talked together. Then, one by one, they rose and stood before the captain. "We have no choice," they said. "We shall sail with you, Captain Cartier."



The coast of Newfoundland. West of Newfoundland, Cartier hoped to find a sea route to the Indies.

It was a bright April morning in 1534 when Cartier's two ships sailed out of the harbor of Saint-Malo. Strong winds filled the sails and carried the ships westward across the Atlantic. Twenty days later, Jacques Cartier and his crew saw the coast of Newfoundland.

The explorers turned northward and entered the foggy strait that separates Newfoundland from the coast of Labrador. (See map on page 69.) Cartier guided the ships past huge icebergs that were drifting slowly through the strait. Finally, the explorers



Cartier landed in Canada in 1534. He set up a tall wooden cross and claimed the land for France.

reached a large body of water west of Newfoundland. This was the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, but to Cartier it looked like a sea. He turned southward along the western coast of Newfoundland before crossing the wide gulf. Then Cartier and his men sailed along the mainland of Canada for several weeks. In the ships' longboats* they explored each new bay, hoping to find a waterway to the Indies. In July, the explorers anchored their ships in a small bay and went ashore. There on the Gaspé Peninsula, Cartier set up a tall wooden cross and claimed the land for France. He named this

region New France. Then the men returned to their ships and sailed northeastward through a dense fog.

Early in August, Cartier reached the northern coast of Anticosti Island. (See map on page 69.) Ahead of him he saw a great channel of water stretching far westward. "Is this the waterway that leads to the Indies?" Cartier wondered. He did not know that he had discovered the great Saint Lawrence River. Cartier longed to stay and explore it further, but he had found it too late. There was only enough food left for the long voyage home. Reluctantly, Cartier and his men began their homeward journey and reached Saint-Malo in September of 1534.

When the King of France heard about the great waterway Cartier had discovered, he, too, believed it might be a sea route to the Indies. He gave Cartier money to hire three ships and men to explore the waterway the following summer.

It was July of 1535 when Cartier once again sailed through the narrow strait between Newfoundland and Labrador, and entered the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Aboard his ships were about a hundred men, and enough food and supplies for fifteen months. Soon the ships were sailing across the sparkling waters of the passage that Cartier hoped would lead him to the Indies. However, Cartier learned from two Indian fishermen that this was not a sea passage as he had thought, but a great river. Cartier and his men explored the mouth of the Saint Lawrence River for several days. Then they followed the river inland.

For nearly two months, the explorers sailed up the Saint Lawrence River, past fertile lands covered with tall trees. When the river became narrower, Cartier anchored the two largest ships and left some of his men behind to build a strong fort for the winter. Then he continued up the Saint Lawrence in the smallest ship.



Friendly Indians led Cartier to their village near the foot of a high hill which he named Mount Royal.

When the river became too shallow for this ship, Cartier and some of his men rowed farther upstream in small boats. Three days later, they reached a large island in the river. Here, more than a thousand Indians crowded along the shore to welcome them. The Indians believed that the Frenchmen were gods, for they had never seen white men before. They led the explorers to their village near the foot of a high hill.

After visiting this village for two days, Cartier and his men climbed to the top of the great hill. Cartier named this hill Mount Royal. Then the explorers traveled back down the Saint Lawrence to the fort the other men had built. The leaves were falling. Soon the river would be covered with ice.

The explorers lived at the fort all winter. Many of the men died from the cold and a terrible disease called scurvy.* By spring, most of their food and supplies were gone. Eagerly, the men waited for the ice on the river to melt. Then they began the long voyage back to France.

Montreal,* Canada, is built partly on the island in the Saint Lawrence that Cartier explored in 1535.





A farm along the Saint Lawrence. Many people from France settled on lands discovered by Cartier.

After his explorations in Canada, Jacques Cartier was convinced that the fertile lands of that country would make prosperous farms and villages for French colonists. In 1541, he sailed to Canada with five ships to start a colony on the Saint Lawrence River. There he built a strong fort and named it Bourg Royal. In the spring, he sailed back to France, believing that the colonists would be happy. However, the King of France had put a cruel man in charge of the colony. After a winter of terrible hardships and suffering, the

colonists that Cartier had left behind returned to France. Many years would pass before the French would have a permanent settlement in the New World.

Jacques Cartier did not find the gold and other riches of the Indies that he was seeking. His discovery was far more important. The great Saint Lawrence River that Cartier explored flows through fertile lands, rich in minerals and timber. These lands were held by France for many years. Today, this great region is part of Canada.

DO YOU KNOW

1. Why was it difficult for Cartier to hire men for his crew? How did he get them?
2. What great river did Cartier discover? What did he think it was at first?
3. Tell what Cartier saw and did on the island he discovered in the St. Lawrence.
4. Why were Cartier's voyages important to France? Trace them on the map below.

The explorations of Cartier gave France a claim to vast lands in North America.







Hernando de Soto and his army of treasure seekers landed in Florida in May, 1539.

CHAPTER NINE HERNANDO DE SOTO 1500?-1542

On May 25, 1539, nine Spanish ships anchored near Tampa Bay on the western coast of Florida. From the ships, over six hundred men looked eagerly at the inviting, green coast before them. The leaves of palm trees swayed gracefully in the gentle breeze. Magnolias and lilies grew everywhere. All seemed calm and peaceful, except for tall columns of black smoke that drifted toward the

sky. These were the smoke signals of an Indian chief who was calling his warriors together.

A tall and handsome Spanish nobleman named Hernando de Soto stood on the deck of one ship and studied these smoke signals. He knew they were the signal fires of the hostile Indians who lived here, but he was not afraid. He and his men had left their homes in Spain, Portugal, and Cuba to search for gold in Florida. No Indians could stop them now. They would find their fortunes or die in the attempt.

De Soto's eyes blazed with excitement as he turned to his men. "The Indians have seen us," he said, "but we have nothing to fear from them. They will not dare attack our armed men on horseback. We shall not harm the Indians so long as they supply us with guides, and slaves to carry our baggage."

With a small party of men, De Soto went ashore. Then he ordered the men who were waiting on the ships to follow him. A great cheer rose from these men, for they were eager to begin their search for gold. They liked and trusted their gay, fearless leader. He had returned from Peru several years before with rubies, gold, and silver. The men knew that De Soto hoped to find an even greater fortune in Florida. "Soon," they thought happily, "we will all be rich."

Within a few days after they landed, these treasure hunters began their march through the green wilderness of Florida. In this army were noblemen, shopkeepers, and soldiers, all wearing colorful uniforms. Some of them carried gay silken banners. Their shining armor sparkled in the sunlight. Many rode prancing horses. Here and there were priests wearing long robes. A herd of squealing pigs followed behind the army. If hunting should be poor, they would supply the soldiers with fresh meat.



In the green wilderness of Florida, the treasure hunters hoped to find a great fortune in gold.

De Soto needed Indian guides who could help him find the gold he was seeking. However, the Indians fought bitterly when the white men tried to capture members of their tribes. De Soto could not talk to these natives. None of his men could speak their language.

One day, some of De Soto's men met a group of Indian braves wearing war paint and armed with bows and arrows. All but one of the Indians ran away when the Spaniards attacked. "Wait!" he cried in Spanish. "Do not kill me. I am a Christian!" Surprised, the men lowered their spears. He told them that his name was Juan Ortiz and that he was a Spaniard. Twelve years before, while exploring Florida, he had been captured by cruel Indians. He had escaped, and a friendly Indian tribe had protected him. Eagerly,



The Tennessee River. De Soto's army marched through part of the region that is now Tennessee.

the Spaniards took Juan Ortiz to De Soto. Now the explorers had someone with them who could talk to the Indians they met.

The Spaniards traveled from village to village, searching for gold. Most of the Indians they met were poor. Hoping that De Soto would travel onward without harming them, some of these Indians spoke of rich gold mines far to the north. De Soto led his men northeastward into the region we now call Georgia. Here they were greeted by Creek Indians, who wore cloth robes and lived in houses plastered with clay. Although these were the most prosperous Indians the Spaniards had seen, they had no gold. Tired and homesick, De Soto's men trudged onward.

After crossing the wide Savannah River, De Soto reached a village ruled by a beautiful Indian princess. The princess gave the Spaniards food and invited them to stay in her village. She also gave them over three hundred pounds of pearls. In spite of this, De Soto was disappointed. There was still no gold. He forced the helpless princess to leave her village and accompany his army. One night she and her attendants escaped. With them they took a chest filled with the finest pearls.

De Soto and his men continued onward, determined to find gold. They marched through the regions which are now South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. (See map on page 76.) When they reached Alabama, they met a powerful Indian chief named Tuscaloosa. Tuscaloosa seemed friendly, even when De Soto made him

In Alabama many of De Soto's men were killed in a battle with Indians, but De Soto marched on.



a prisoner in his own village. However, the crafty Indian chief quietly waited for a chance to regain his liberty. One day, during an argument, a Spanish officer drew his sword and killed an Indian. Then Tuscaloosa's warriors attacked the Spaniards with clubs, and bows and arrows. The Spaniards fought desperately, and slowly drove the Indians back. Finally, they set fire to Tuscaloosa's village. The air was filled with the cries of wounded men being burned to death or trampled by frightened horses. At last, after several hours of fighting, the Spaniards succeeded in killing all of the Indians. However, eighty of De Soto's men were dead. Nearly all of the army's baggage, food, and the pearls from the princess were burned. Some of his frightened soldiers wanted to go home. De Soto paid no attention to their wishes, however. Within a month, his army marched again.

De Soto's explorations gave Spain a claim to much land in the southern part of North America.





De Soto discovered the Mississippi in 1541, after two years of wandering in the wilderness.

On May 8, 1541, two years after they had begun their journey, the Spaniards reached the widest river they had seen in America. Though they did not know it, they had discovered one of the longest rivers in the world. De Soto named it the Rio Grande, or the "Great River." Today we call it the Mississippi.

The army crossed the Mississippi River and marched on into Arkansas. As the months passed, even De Soto became discouraged. Half of his men had died and many more were sick. There were only a few good horses left. Weary and disappointed, he led his men back to the Mississippi River. There, in the spring of 1542, Hernando de Soto died. His men buried him in the mighty river he had discovered.

Later, De Soto's men built crude boats and sailed down the Mississippi River. When they reached the Gulf of Mexico, they sailed along the coast for hundreds of miles. (See map on page 76.) In September of 1543, they finally reached a Spanish settlement. About three hundred sick and ragged men were all that remained of De Soto's gay army of treasure seekers.

DO YOU KNOW

1. With the help of pictures and the text in this chapter, describe De Soto's army.
2. Who was Tuscaloosa? Tell about the battle between his warriors and the Spaniards.
3. What great river did De Soto discover? What did he name it?
4. Using the map on page 76, follow the route of De Soto and his men.

The Mississippi River. After De Soto died in 1542, his men sailed down the Mississippi to the coast.





Henry Hudson's crew rebelled when he tried to sail his ship around northern Europe to reach China.

CHAPTER TEN

HENRY HUDSON

1575?-1611

Captain Henry Hudson could hear the angry voices of his crew. He turned to look at the men who had gathered on the deck of his small ship, the *Half Moon*. The sailors were huddled together, as if to shelter themselves from the icy winds that blew across the Arctic Ocean.

"I'll sail no farther north!" shouted one of the men. "Aye!" agreed the other sailors. Then, one of the men stepped forward. "Captain Hudson, we are freezing," he said. "Our hands and feet are numb from the cold. Some of us are afraid that the ship will be crushed by the ice. We want to go back to Holland before we lose our lives!"

"Men," said the tall, English sea captain, "I share the same hardships as you, but I am not afraid. I've sailed this northern ocean twice before, searching for a trade route to China. (See map on page 87.) This time, I hope that we shall be able to sail around northern Europe and reach Asia. The Dutch merchants who hired me are eager to find a northern route to the East* so that their ships can bring back the riches of those lands. Help me discover this route and you will receive much honor when we return to Holland."

"No!" the men shouted. "We'll freeze to death!"

Captain Hudson looked thoughtfully at his angry crew. He could see that they were determined to turn back. Then he thought of the maps of America he had in his cabin. For some time he had wanted to search for a western route to China along the coast of North America. "Perhaps," he thought, "this is my chance to find it."

"Men," said Captain Hudson, "I have a plan which may bring success to our voyage. We shall turn the ship around, but we shall not go back to Holland. Instead, let us search for a water route to China along the mainland of America. There are two choices. We can look for a way around the northernmost part of America, or we can search for a passage through America by sailing southward along its coast. You men may decide which route we shall take."



Icebergs and ice floes in the cold waters of the Arctic Ocean frightened Hudson's men.

"Let's go home, Captain!" cried one timid sailor.

A husky seaman tugged at the sailor's sleeve. "Quiet, you fool!" he whispered. "We shall be thrown into prison if we go home now. Men are sometimes hanged for refusing to follow their captain's orders."

The sailors argued among themselves for a time. Finally, one man called out, "We want to sail in warmer waters, Captain Hudson. We choose the southern route."



Henry Hudson made four voyages in search of a water route to China.

The tall Englishman smiled. Then he called his officers and ordered them to turn the ship around. "We are sailing to America," said Henry Hudson.

It was July of 1609 when the *Half Moon* reached the northeastern coast of North America. After turning southward, Captain Hudson and his crew explored the bays and inlets along the shore of the region that is now New England. (See map on page 87.) They sailed as far as North Carolina before turning northward. In September they entered a deep, sheltered bay. At the northern end of the bay was a wide inlet.

Manhattan Island and the Hudson River. Henry Hudson first saw this island in 1609.





Henry Hudson Parkway in New York was named after the great explorer who sailed up the Hudson.

When Captain Hudson saw this inlet, he thought that it might be the waterway for which he was searching. Eagerly, he followed it inland. (See map on page 87.) However, he soon realized that it was not a sea passage across America, as he had hoped. It was a great river. Farther inland the salt water became fresh, and the river narrowed. Still, he wanted to see more of the beautiful, fertile country through which it flowed. By late September, Hudson and his men had sailed nearly 150 miles up the great river. Near the place where the city of Albany now stands, the river became too shallow for the ship to sail farther. Disappointed, the explorers

traveled back down the river to the sea. With a brisk west wind filling the ship's sails, the *Half Moon* began the long voyage home.

Henry Hudson landed at an English seaport instead of returning to Holland. At once, he sent a report of his explorations to his Dutch employers and asked for money to make another voyage to America.

When the King of England heard about Hudson's discovery in North America, however, he would not allow him to leave. "This time your voyage shall be made for England, your own country!" said the King. Eagerly, Hudson outfitted another ship and hired a crew with money that had been given to him by some English merchants. He planned to continue his search for a northwest passage to China in the uncharted sea between Greenland and Labrador.

On April 17, 1610, Hudson's ship, the *Discovery*, left England and sailed westward across the Atlantic. Among the people aboard the ship were Henry Hudson's young son and some of the men who had sailed with Hudson to America before. Near the end of June, they reached Hudson Strait. (See map on page 87.)

In this wide channel they saw great masses of floating ice. Some of Hudson's men were terrified and wanted to sail back to England. But their courageous captain was sure that he had discovered a northwest passage to China at last. He guided the ship through the perilous 450-mile-long strait and entered the great bay that now bears his name. Then he sailed southward along its eastern coast to the southernmost end of the bay. For weeks Hudson explored this swampy coastline, but failed to find a waterway that would lead him farther west. By this time, it was almost winter. Captain Hudson turned northward toward Hudson Strait, but he had waited too long. Freezing north winds blew across the bay,



A settlement along Hudson Strait. Hudson sailed through this strait and discovered Hudson Bay.

and ice began to form on the water. Hurriedly, the men found a little harbor and pulled the ship close to the shore for the winter. Days later, the ship was frozen fast in the ice.

That winter the explorers lived in a log hut they had built on the shore of the bay. By springtime, the men had little left to eat. Many of them were sick. In June, they sailed northward once again. However, some of the sailors were afraid that their captain did not intend to return home. They seized the ship. Then they put the brave explorer into a small boat with his son and seven loyal crew members and cast them adrift. Henry Hudson and his companions were never seen again.

Less than fifteen years after Hudson's death, Dutch colonists made their homes in the fertile regions this great explorer had claimed along the Hudson River. English sea captains later followed his route to Hudson Bay and returned with shiploads of valuable furs. Although Henry Hudson did not find the Northwest Passage to China, his explorations brought wealth and new lands to Holland and England.

DO YOU KNOW

1. Tell why Hudson gave up his search for a route to China around northern Europe.
2. What waterway was Hudson trying to find on his final voyage?
3. On the map below, locate a river, a bay, and a strait named for Hudson.
4. Tell how the Dutch and the English profited by Hudson's voyages.

Hudson's voyages. Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, and the Hudson River are named after Henry Hudson.





FATHER

MARQUETTE

MEMORIAL



The Straits of Mackinac.* On the far shore of this channel was the Jesuit* mission of Saint Ignace.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

MARQUETTE AND JOLIET

1637-1675 1645-1700

A pine-scented breeze ruffled the waters of the channel that connects Lake Huron with Lake Michigan. In the dim light of early morning, pale spirals of smoke rose from a cluster of Indian lodges on the northern shore. Near the lodges was a log chapel. This small settlement was the Jesuit* mission of Saint Ignace.

Father Marquette came to Canada from France to teach Christianity to the Indians. With Louis Joliet, he explored much of the Mississippi River.



A pageant at Saint Ignace. Here, Marquette and Joliet began their journey to find the Mississippi.

On this May morning in 1673, the settlement at Saint Ignace was crowded and noisy. Indian babies cried and clung to their mothers. Dogs barked. French fur traders, dressed in buckskins and soft moccasins, gathered in small groups and talked excitedly. Indian braves, wearing deerskins and necklaces of dyed porcupine quills, stood along a sandy beach. They watched curiously as five Frenchmen loaded supplies into two birch-bark canoes. The men carefully placed smoked meat and bags of dried corn into the frail canoes. Muskets* and packages of gunpowder and bullets were loaded next.

Nearby a slim young man, dressed in coarse gray clothing and a beaver hat, was kneeling on the beach. He was Louis Joliet, a French explorer. With expert fingers, Joliet tied strips of rawhide* tightly around a soft, leather pouch. The pouch held paper, pens, and charcoal for drawing maps and writing reports. Then he placed the pouch in one of the canoes and carefully covered it with animal skins to protect it from the water. At last, after putting a few bags of beads into the canoes, Joliet and his men were ready for the long journey that lay ahead.

A slender, young priest walked slowly toward the canoes. He was dressed in the long, black robe of a Jesuit missionary. At the water's edge, he turned and looked back at the mission that had been his home for about two years. Here he had worked to bring Christianity to the Indians. Many of them were now his friends. He raised his hand and blessed the men, women, and children who crowded along the shore. Then he turned and stepped carefully into one of the canoes. This young priest was Father Marquette. He and Louis Joliet had been ordered by the Governor of New France to find and explore the great Mississippi River. During their journey, Father Marquette would visit the Indians and teach them about God.

Swiftly the two canoes glided away from the shore. The men paused a moment to wave a last good-by. Then they began their long journey westward in search of the great Mississippi River.

For several days, Father Marquette and Joliet traveled along the northern shore of Lake Michigan. When they reached Green Bay, the explorers guided the canoes along the shore and entered the mouth of the Fox River. Day after day, the men paddled eagerly up this river. They knew they were nearing the village of the Mascouten* Indians. No white man had ever gone beyond this



Friendly Mascouten* Indians led Father Marquette and Louis Joliet to the Wisconsin River.

village. However, Father Marquette had heard that these Indians lived near a river called the Wisconsin. He and Joliet hoped that the Indians would show them this river, and that the Wisconsin River would lead them to the great Mississippi.

When Father Marquette and Joliet arrived at the Mascouten village, they were welcomed by the Indians. Then, two Indian

braves led them up a stream and helped the explorers carry their canoes across a swampy plain to the Wisconsin River. For days, the explorers paddled down the slow-moving river. At last, the canoes swept past marshy banks and out into the swift current of a wide river. Joliet snatched off his hat and waved it joyfully in the air. "We have found it!" he shouted. "We have found the great Mississippi!" Father Marquette nodded, speechless with happiness, and looked eagerly about him. Here the great river was nearly a mile wide. Small islands, green with graceful willow trees, rose

The Wisconsin River. The explorers paddled down this river until they reached the Mississippi.



here and there above the river's muddy waters. In the distance were high, forested hills. Father Marquette murmured a little prayer of thanks. With God's help, he and Joliet would follow this great river to the sea.

Day after day, the small party of men paddled southward down the Mississippi. Father Marquette and Joliet stopped often and explored the land along the river. Joliet drew maps of the regions

The Mississippi River. Marquette and Joliet reached this great river on June 17, 1673.





Marquette talked to Indians along the Mississippi. They listened eagerly as he taught them about God.

through which they passed. Father Marquette kept a journal in which he wrote descriptions of the trees, berries, birds, and animals they saw on their trip. Most of the Indians they met were friendly. They listened eagerly as Father Marquette talked to them about God. One Indian chief gave the explorers a long clay pipe, on which hung bright-colored feathers and dried birds' heads. This was a peace pipe and was respected by all the tribes of Indians along the great Mississippi.

"Carry this always," said the Indian chief. "You will not be harmed by the tribes who live farther south along the river."

For more than four weeks, Father Marquette and Joliet traveled southward. They passed the place where the Missouri River flows into the Mississippi. (See map on page 96.) Then they traveled



Marquette and Joliet explored the Mississippi southward to the Arkansas River.

farther south, past the mouth of the Ohio River. By this time, Father Marquette and Joliet had learned from the Indians that the Mississippi flows into the Gulf of Mexico. Finally, when they neared the mouth of the Arkansas River, Father Marquette and Joliet met Indians who told them they were only a two or three days' journey from the sea. The Indians warned the explorers that if they traveled farther south, they would be captured or killed by the Spaniards who held the lands along the Gulf of Mexico. Father Marquette and Joliet decided to turn back. They did not know that they were still seven hundred miles from the Gulf of Mexico.

The explorers turned the canoes northward and began the long journey back up the Mississippi River. After having traveled more than 2,500 miles the seven men reached Green Bay, which they had left nearly five months before. Father Marquette and Joliet

had found and explored the great Mississippi River. Soon other explorers would follow their route into the great, unknown regions of the West. Later, settlers would come and build their homes in these lands.

DO YOU KNOW—

1. What orders were given to Marquette and Joliet by the Governor of New France?
2. On the map on page 96, trace the route followed by Marquette and Joliet.
3. Why did the explorers turn back before they reached the mouth of the Mississippi?
4. About how long did the journey take? How far did Marquette and Joliet travel?

Marquette lived in a log cabin near the Chicago River* during the winter of 1674-1675.





La Salle and the Governor of New France planned to build a great French empire in America.

CHAPTER TWELVE

RENÉ ROBERT CAVELIER, SIEUR DE LA SALLE

1643-1687

In the fortress at Quebec, Canada, a dark-haired man stood before the Governor of the colony of New France. He was René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, a French explorer. "Your Excellency," he said, "I have just returned from France with good news. The King has given me permission to travel to the mouth of the great Mississippi River and claim the land through which it flows for

France.” La Salle handed the Governor a document that was sealed with the King’s emblem and dated May 12, 1678.

“I am happy that you were successful,” said the Governor. “You have worked many years for this.”

“That is true,” La Salle agreed. “When I came to America twelve years ago, I was determined to earn money and to explore new

La Salle traded for furs. He was friendly to the Indians and learned to speak their language.



lands for France. At first I traded cloth, guns, and other goods for furs which the Indians brought me. I became their friend and learned to speak their language. Then I talked with the Indians about two great rivers to the south, the Ohio River and the great Mississippi. After traveling hundreds of miles, I reached the Ohio River. In sunny meadows near the Ohio, I saw great herds of buffalo grazing on the tall, rich grass. Deer and other game roamed the woods. The soil was rich. Here, French families could raise the same kind of crops they grow at home.

"Then I heard that Father Marquette and Louis Joliet had reached the Mississippi and had traveled far down that great river. They learned from the Indians that the Mississippi flows into the Gulf of Mexico."

La Salle paced restlessly about the room. "I shall follow the Mississippi all the way to the sea, Governor Frontenac!" he exclaimed. "When I reach the mouth of this river, I shall claim for France all the land through which it flows. Then the colony of New France will extend all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. I shall build forts wherever they are needed to protect this territory from the English and the Spanish. So that I can pay for building these forts, I will trade with the Indians for buffalo hides and furs in the new lands that I claim. French families can make their homes in this region. The great Mississippi River will become the highway by which our colonists may send products to Europe."

"That is a great plan, my friend," said the Governor. "I will help you all I can."

La Salle was eager to begin his journey to the mouth of the Mississippi. However, he first planned to build forts near the Great Lakes. From these forts his men could trade with the Indians for furs. He also planned to build a sailing ship. While he



La Salle explored the Mississippi River all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

traveled down the Mississippi, some of his men would take shiploads of furs across the Great Lakes and sell them. With this money, La Salle would build forts along the Mississippi.

During that winter, La Salle's men built Fort Conti, near the southwestern end of Lake Ontario. They also built the *Griffin*, the first sailing ship on the Great Lakes.

In August of 1679, La Salle and his men sailed aboard the *Griffin* across Lake Erie, through the Strait of Detroit,* and across Lake Saint Clair.* On Lake Huron, the *Griffin* nearly sank during a fierce storm. At last, the travelers reached Green Bay on Lake Michigan. Here, La Salle's ship was loaded with furs that his men had secured from the Indians. Then La Salle ordered the crew of the *Griffin* to take the furs back to Montreal.



La Salle built the “Griffin” to carry furs. It was the first sailing ship on the Great Lakes.

“Sell the furs,” he told the crew. “We shall wait for you to bring supplies to us at the southern end of Lake Michigan. Then we will begin our journey to the Mississippi.”

Near the southern end of Lake Michigan, La Salle and his men built Fort Miami. They waited there for weeks, but the *Griffin* did not come back. Finally, La Salle led his men southward. On the Illinois River, the explorers built Fort Crèvecoeur, which means “heartbreak.” La Salle’s men understood how much he had depended on the *Griffin* to bring the supplies they needed.

La Salle knew he must get supplies before he could begin his trip down the Mississippi. He chose five men and started on the long journey back to Montreal to discover what had happened to the *Griffin*.

The little party traveled for over two months through rain, sleet, and snow. After a trip of more than one thousand miles,

Lake Michigan. La Salle's ship, the "Griffin," disappeared during a trip on the Great Lakes.



La Salle reached Montreal. However, no one had heard of the *Griffin*. It was never seen again.

Even though La Salle had no money, he was still determined to complete the plans he had made. He borrowed money and bought the supplies he needed. Then he heard discouraging news. Most of the men he had left at Fort Crèvecoeur had deserted him. Only a few loyal members of his party remained. Hurriedly, La Salle began the long trip back to the fort.

When La Salle arrived at Fort Crèvecoeur, he found it in ruins. There was no sign of his faithful men. Finally, La Salle learned that they had gone north to Green Bay to escape from the fierce Iroquois Indians. La Salle traveled to Fort Miami. There, he helped friendly Indian tribes form an organization to protect themselves from the warlike Iroquois Indians.

In 1681, La Salle was ready for his trip to the mouth of the Mississippi. He chose twenty-three of his most trusted men and eighteen friendly Indian warriors to go with him. They loaded supplies into large birch-bark canoes, and began their long journey. In February of 1682, they reached the Mississippi River. For over two months, the explorers paddled southward. Then La Salle and his men reached a place where the river branched off in three directions. Leaning over the side of his canoe, La Salle scooped up a handful of water and tasted it. The water was salty. They were close to the place where the river flows into the Gulf of Mexico. They had found the mouth of the Mississippi River.

La Salle told his men to land on the riverbank near a small hill. There they set up a tall, wooden post. On it La Salle carved the name of the King of France and the date, the ninth of April, 1682. His men buried a metal plate in the ground nearby. The plate was stamped with the royal emblem. Then they placed a wooden cross



La Salle set up a wooden post near the mouth of the Mississippi. He claimed the land for France.

beside it. In a clear, ringing voice La Salle said, "I claim this land in the name of King Louis XIV of France. I shall call this land Louisiana, in his honor." La Salle's dream had come true.

The explorers made the long return journey up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. On a high cliff overlooking the Illinois, they built Fort Saint Louis. (See map on page 101.) La Salle was pleased. It seemed that all of his plans were succeeding.

However, La Salle was soon to be disappointed. His friend the Governor of New France had returned to Europe. He had been replaced by a man who was jealous of La Salle and who wanted him to fail. The new Governor ordered La Salle to return to



Starved Rock. La Salle built Fort Saint Louis on this cliff overlooking the Illinois River.

Quebec. He took away his forts and most of his property. The new Governor had convinced the King that La Salle could not help France. At once, La Salle sailed to France to appeal to the King in person.

When La Salle told the King what he had accomplished, the ruler was pleased with the daring explorer. He returned La Salle's forts and sent one of La Salle's men to take charge of them. He also approved of La Salle's plan to establish a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi River. The King gave La Salle four ships loaded with supplies for this colony.

In 1684, La Salle sailed back to America. With him were a hundred soldiers and the men, women, and children who would make their homes near the mouth of the Mississippi River. After La Salle and the colonists reached the Gulf of Mexico, however, they were unable to find the entrance to the river. In February of 1685, they landed on the shore of Matagorda Bay, Texas. (See map on page 101.) A few weeks later, some of the colonists sailed back to France. With one ship, La Salle and the others stayed behind to find the river.

The Mississippi at New Orleans. La Salle hoped to start a colony at the mouth of this river.





La Salle landed on the coast of Texas after he failed to find the mouth of the Mississippi.

After they had built a fort near Matagorda Bay, La Salle and some of his men began the task of finding the Mississippi River. One group sailed along the coast, hoping to find the mouth of the river. However, the ship was wrecked in a storm.

La Salle led two different expeditions to the northeast, trying to find a stream that would flow into the Mississippi. If they could find the Mississippi, they would be able to travel up the river to the French settlements in Canada and get supplies. La Salle and his men walked hundreds of miles in search of the Mississippi, but they could not find it.

When La Salle returned from his last trip, he knew he must get help. Many of the colonists had died. Supplies were nearly gone. No ship had come from France to help them. In January of

1687, La Salle and about twenty men began a desperate journey to reach the fort he had built on the Illinois River. A few months later, La Salle was murdered by some of his own men.

La Salle's dream of a huge French colony in America did not come true, but he is still remembered as a great explorer. He claimed for his country the entire valley of the Mississippi. Soon after his death, France built the forts he had planned along this great river. For many years, France held the rich lands that had been claimed by René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle.

—DO YOU KNOW—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Tell why La Salle wanted to explore the Mississippi River. | 3. For what reason did La Salle build a sailing ship? |
| 2. Why did he plan to build forts? Locate the forts on the map on page 101. | 4. Tell what happened to the colonists La Salle brought to America. |

La Salle walked hundreds of miles through southern Texas, searching for the Mississippi.





Captain James Cook explored large areas of the Pacific Ocean during the eighteenth century.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

1728-1779

Captain James Cook entered the cabin of his small ship. In his hand were final instructions from the English navy for a voyage to the South Pacific Ocean. The navy had ordered him to sail the ship *Endeavour* past the southern tip of South America. Then he was to sail westward across the South Pacific to a newly discovered island called Tahiti. There, Captain Cook would assist the three scientists aboard his ship to observe a great scientific event.

Astronomers knew that on the third of June, 1769, the planet Venus would pass between the earth and the sun. By sending scientists to observe this event from different locations, they hoped to discover the sun's distance from the earth. The island of Tahiti was chosen as the place from which Captain Cook and the scientists aboard his ship would study the passage of Venus.

British scientists and the admirals of the Royal Navy had agreed that no one was better qualified to lead this expedition than James Cook. As a boy, he had taught himself mathematics, navigation, and astronomy. Later he made charts of the waters of the Saint Lawrence River. These had helped the English drive the French from the city of Quebec, Canada. A report that he had written about the moon's passage between the earth and the sun had been read before famous scientists in England. Cook also had many years' experience as a sailor, and he had commanded a ship in the Royal Navy. If any man could safely lead an expedition to the other side of the world and back, it was James Cook.

Captain Cook walked to his desk and unlocked a small steel box. He took out a document that was sealed with wax and stamped with the emblem of the Royal Navy. No one but the admirals of the navy and Cook knew that he had received this second set of instructions. Captain Cook carefully broke the seal. As he read the message inside, he learned that he was to leave Tahiti as soon as the astronomers had watched Venus pass between the earth and the sun. He was to search for a great continent that geographers believed might be located in the South Pacific Ocean.

Captain Cook looked thoughtfully at his map of the South Pacific. From the map, he could see that most of this great ocean had never been explored. A few irregular lines had been drawn to show the general location of the continent of Australia.



Captain Cook claimed the islands of New Zealand and the east coast of Australia for England.

New Zealand also had been discovered, but no one knew its size or shape.

“It is possible that there may be another continent in this ocean,” Captain Cook thought. “The explorer who finds it will claim it for his country. This is why I have been given secret instructions. If there is such a land, England wants me to claim it.”

James Cook began this great voyage in 1768. Nearly three years passed before he returned to England. During this time, he sailed all the way around the world. (See map on page 119.) He explored vast areas of the South Pacific Ocean between the continents of South America and Australia. Captain Cook did not find the “great southern continent” for which he was looking. However, he explored the entire coastline of New Zealand and the eastern coast of Australia. He drew maps and claimed these lands for England. Today, Captain Cook is called “the real discoverer of Australia.” He was the first man to reach its fertile eastern coast and to suggest that British colonists could make their homes there.

Cook landed at Botany Bay,* in Australia. Later, he drew maps of Australia's eastern coast.





Antarctica.* Cook sailed farther south than any explorer before him, but he did not reach Antarctica.

In 1772, Captain Cook again sailed in search of the continent that geographers still believed was somewhere in the southernmost seas. This time, he sailed farther south than ever before. (See map on page 119.) In the cold waters of the Antarctic,* icebergs loomed up around his ship and icicles hung from its sails. Farther south, the sea was covered with thick ice. This was as far south as a ship could sail.

Captain Cook and his men sailed northward until the ship entered warmer waters. Then they turned eastward into the South Pacific. Though they discovered several islands, they still did not find the new continent for which they were searching. Finally, Captain Cook was convinced that if such a continent existed it must lie so near the South Pole that ships could not reach it.

When he was forty-eight years old, Captain James Cook began his third and last great voyage to the Pacific. On this voyage, he hoped to discover a water route called the "Northwest Passage," by which he could reach the Atlantic Ocean from the Pacific. Captain Cook believed he might find this passage somewhere in the arctic regions along the northern coast of North America.

From England, Captain Cook sailed around the southern tip of Africa, and then eastward past Australia into the Pacific Ocean. (See map on page 119.) Turning northward, Captain Cook explored

In the Arctic,* Captain Cook hoped to find a passage between the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans.







Cook landed in Hawaii. He believed these islands were his most important discovery in the Pacific.

the central areas of the Pacific on his way to North America. During this great voyage, he discovered the beautiful Hawaiian Islands.

Sunlight sparkled on the waves that washed the islands' shores. Palm leaves swayed in the gentle breeze. In the distance, Captain Cook saw beautiful, green mountains that were capped with snow. He was sure these islands were the most important discovery he had made in the Pacific. He longed to stay and explore them. Spring was coming soon, however, and he wanted to search for the Northwest Passage during the warmer months. Captain Cook



Cook explored Alaska's coast, searching for the Northwest Passage to the Atlantic Ocean. He sailed north until ice forced him to turn back.

left the Hawaiian Islands. In March of 1778, he reached America's northwestern coast.

For several months, Captain Cook sailed northward along the coast. (See map below.) He drew maps and named the capes and bays. Then he sailed through Bering Strait* into the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean. There he followed the northwestern coast of Alaska. The explorers sailed through thick, blinding fogs. Tons of floating ice drifted toward the ships. At last, a huge wall of ice blocked the way, and Captain Cook turned back. The short arctic summer was ending. He knew it was too dangerous to stay any longer in these cold, northern waters. He would continue his search for the Northwest Passage the following summer.

Cook's explorations and his maps gave the world a true picture of the geography of the Pacific.



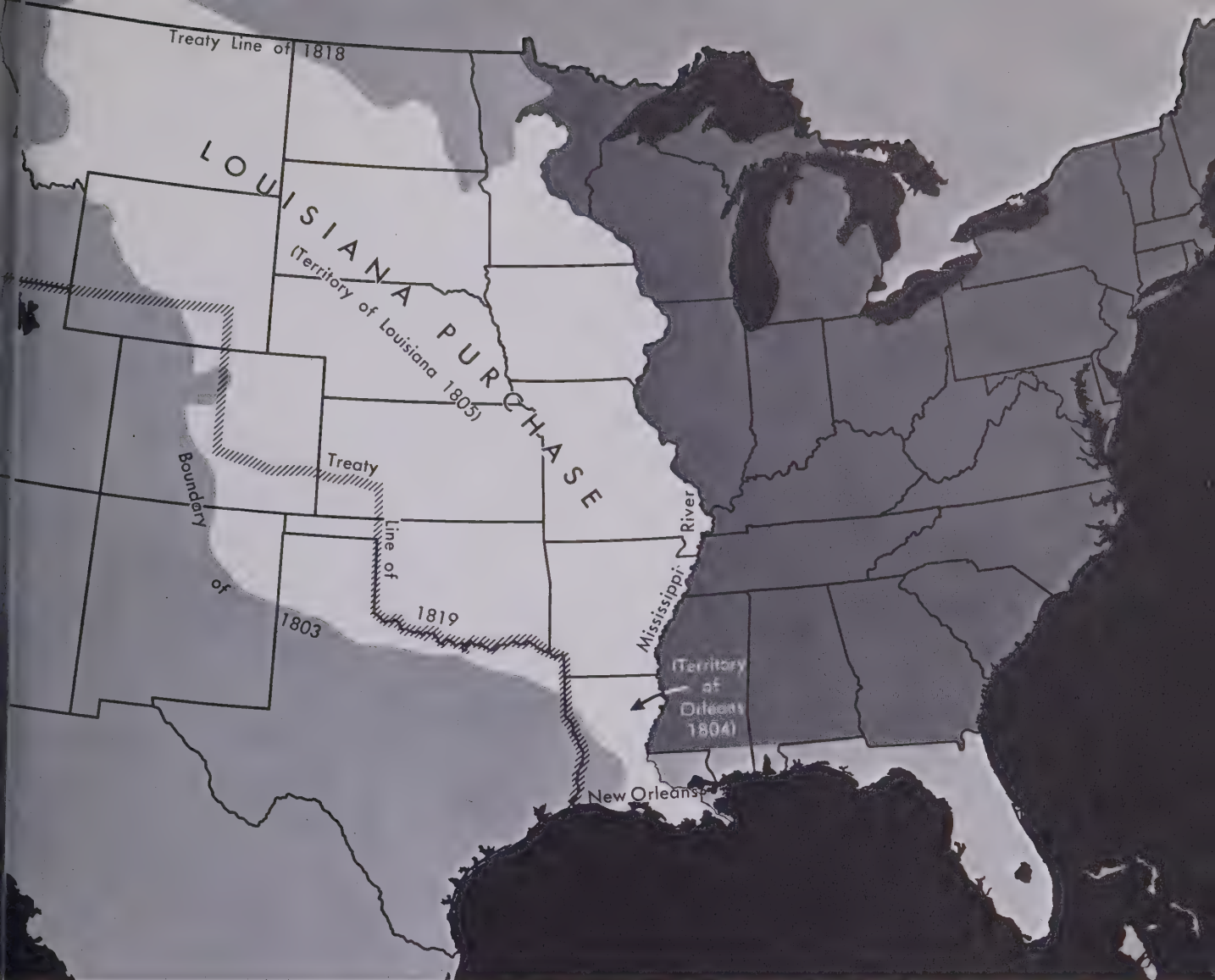
Captain Cook left the arctic region and sailed back to the Hawaiian Islands. There, on February 14, 1779, he was killed by the Islanders. This great explorer, Captain James Cook, was buried by his men in the Pacific Ocean, near the beautiful islands he had discovered.

—DO YOU KNOW—

1. What was Captain Cook instructed to do on his first voyage to the South Pacific?
2. Why did British scientists and the Royal Navy choose Cook to lead this expedition?
3. Why is Captain Cook called "the real discoverer of Australia"?
4. What did Cook hope to find on his second voyage? On his third voyage?

A monument to Captain Cook in Hawaii marks the place where this great explorer was killed.





The Louisiana Purchase. In 1803, President Jefferson chose Lewis and Clark to explore this vast region.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

LEWIS AND CLARK

1774-1809 1770-1838

Meriwether Lewis smiled as he entered the office of President Thomas Jefferson. “Mr. President,” he said, “William Clark and I are almost ready to begin our journey to the Pacific Coast. We have medicine, rifles, and gifts for the Indians we may meet along the way. Men have been chosen to accompany us. Have you any final instructions?”

Thomas Jefferson pulled out a chair for his young visitor. "Be seated, Meriwether," he said. "You probably have already heard that France has sold the seaport of New Orleans and the whole Territory of Louisiana to the United States. (See map on page 121.) Now your expedition is even more important than we had believed.

"As you travel to the Pacific Coast, I want you to explore this great region which our nation has purchased. I want you to keep a diary in which you describe the Indians, the plants, the animals, and everything else you see. You can help the people of the United States learn about their new territory."

The Missouri joins the Mississippi near the place where Lewis and Clark began their journey in 1804.





Lewis collected plants along the shore as the three boats traveled up the Missouri.

In the fall of 1803, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled to Saint Louis. Near the place where the Missouri River flows into the Mississippi, the men in the expedition built a camp. Here they lived throughout the winter. In May, 1804, Lewis and Clark began their long journey up the wide Missouri River with three boats and forty-three men.

The three boats moved slowly upstream against the swift current. Lewis often walked along the shore, collecting plants to send back to President Jefferson. Sometimes Clark joked with the crew. "Come on men, pull those oars," Clark would say. "We don't want anyone getting fat on this trip." The men worked hard, but travel

upstream was slow and difficult. Often they had to get out of their boats and pull them over sand bars and fallen logs.

By October the river began to freeze, and the explorers had to look for a place to spend the winter. They built a fort near a settlement of friendly Mandan Indians, in the region we now call North Dakota. Here, two more people joined the expedition. One was a Canadian trapper named Toussaint Charbonneau,* who could

In a Mandan Indian lodge. Lewis and Clark spent the winter of 1804 near a Mandan Indian village.





A Plains Indian village. Lewis and Clark tried to make friends with all the Indians they met.

speaking the language of the Indians. The other was his wife Sacagawea,* or “Bird Woman.” Sacagawea was a Shoshone Indian who had been stolen from her tribe and sold to Charbonneau. Lewis and Clark knew that the Shoshones lived in the Rocky Mountains and could sell them horses. They hoped that Sacagawea could lead the expedition to the village of her people.

When spring came, the explorers continued up the Missouri River. As they traveled, Lewis drew maps of the regions through



Sacagawea,* a brave Indian woman, joined the expedition as a guide. Her knowledge of the Indians helped the explorers.

which they passed. Many nights, when the others were sleeping, he and Clark sat by the fire and wrote in their diaries. They described buffalo, huge grizzly bears, and the fertile lands which they had seen. One day, Lewis climbed to the top of a high, rocky cliff along the riverbank. From there, he saw a jagged line of snow-covered peaks on the horizon. They were higher than any he had ever seen. These were the Rocky Mountains.

The explorers continued up the Missouri River toward the mountains until they came to a thundering waterfall. This was the Great Falls of the Missouri. Beyond it were more falls and

The Great Falls of the Missouri. The explorers dragged their boats around these falls.



rapids. The men dragged the boats overland until they reached calm waters. Then they paddled upstream for another month. Finally, they came to a place the Indians called Three Forks. Here, three rivers join to form the Missouri. (See map on page 132.) Lewis led the expedition up the western river, which he named the Jefferson.

Soon Sacagawea saw red, rocky cliffs which she had visited as a child. She knew her people must be nearby. Carrying her baby

In the Rockies. As Lewis and Clark continued westward, travel by boat became more difficult.





Friendly Indians gave the tired explorers horses and guided them across the Rocky Mountains.

boy on her back, she led the expedition farther and farther into the mountains. The river became so narrow and shallow that the boats scraped against the rocky river bed. Lewis and Clark looked anxiously for the Shoshones, for they needed horses now. Hunting was poor, and many days had passed since the men had eaten meat. They became so hungry and tired that it seemed they could not continue. Finally, Lewis and three of his men went ahead on foot. On the fourth day, they met a party of about sixty Indian horsemen. They were Shoshones.

Later, when Sacagawea saw the young Indian chief, she wept for joy and threw her arms around his neck. The chief was her brother. He agreed to help the expedition.



The Rocky Mountains. After many hardships, the explorers descended the western slopes of the Rockies.

With horses and a Shoshone guide, the explorers continued upward into the mountains. Day after day they climbed higher and higher. It seemed as though the trail would never end. Finally, the men stood on the top of a mountain and looked down at a winding river flowing westward. The explorers built canoes and paddled down the river. They were now west of the Louisiana Territory. At last, the explorers reached the wide Columbia River

and followed it to the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and Clark proudly raised the flag of the United States on the western coast of America.

A year and a half had passed since Lewis and Clark left Saint Louis, but they had completed only half of their journey. They spent the winter on the coast and in the spring started the long trip home. In the mountains they separated. One group, headed by Lewis, pushed northeast through the Rocky Mountains and explored a branch of the Missouri River. Clark and his men floated

The Columbia River. Lewis and Clark drifted down the wide Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean.





Lewis and Clark explored the Territory of Louisiana and the land west to the Pacific Coast.

down the Yellowstone River on rafts. The two groups met later, near the place where the Yellowstone flows into the Missouri River. When the explorers finally reached Saint Louis, on September 23, 1806, they had traveled nearly nine thousand miles.

Soon people all over the United States read in their newspapers about the thrilling adventures of Lewis and Clark. These two great men had explored much of the Territory of Louisiana and had traveled on to the Pacific Ocean. Their accurate records and maps helped other explorers and settlers follow their trail into the West.

—DO YOU KNOW—

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What did President Jefferson tell Meriwether Lewis to do on his journey to the Pacific Coast? | help the Lewis and Clark expedition? |
| 2. Who was Sacagawea, and how did she | 3. How far did Lewis and Clark travel to complete their journey? In what way did their explorations help other people? |



WILLIAM CLARK





Floating ice. Peary's ship, the "Roosevelt," was built so that ice could not easily damage it.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN
ROBERT EDWIN PEARY
1856-1920

One foggy afternoon in August of 1908, a small ship steamed northward from a harbor on the coast of Greenland. A tall man braced himself against the ship's rail. He drew his coat tighter around his shoulders and sheltered his face from the icy spray. By his brisk manner it would be hard to tell he was fifty-two years old. This man was the American explorer Robert E. Peary. He was planning to do something no one else had ever done. He

would reach the North Pole. Twice he had almost reached his goal. Twice he had said, "One more try." This time he was determined to succeed.

Fog swirled around Peary's ship, the *Roosevelt*, and hid the sea from sight. Suddenly the men aboard felt a jarring crash. They had struck a large mass of floating ice. Slowly the ship broke through the ice and continued northward. Peary nodded in satisfaction. He knew the *Roosevelt* could stand much heavier blows than this. He had designed the ship himself. In some places, its

Robert Peary and his men wore fur clothing to keep them warm in the cold polar region.





The “Roosevelt” pushed its way through the ice for about 350 miles to Cape Sheridan.

sides were thirty inches thick. Iron and heavy timbers braced the hull. Part of the ship’s bow was covered with steel, for it must break its way through about 350 miles of almost solid ice. This sturdy ship would take Peary and his men to the edge of the Arctic Ocean. (See map on page 143.)

Mile after mile, the *Roosevelt* rammed and pushed through the thick ice that covers much of the sea between Greenland and the Arctic Ocean. “Rip ’em, Teddy! Bite ’em in two!” Peary’s captain sometimes shouted as the sturdy little ship fought its way northward.



At Cape Sheridan, the ice froze solid around the "Roosevelt." Peary and his men lived aboard the ship for more than five months.

In September, Peary and his men reached Cape Sheridan on the shore of the Arctic Ocean. (See map on page 143.) "We'll see how much farther we can go," Peary thought to himself. Two miles beyond Cape Sheridan, his way was blocked by solid ice. This was as far north as his ship could safely travel. Peary turned back to Cape Sheridan for the winter. Soon the ice that pressed tightly around the *Roosevelt* was frozen solid.

In October, the sun descended below the horizon. The long arctic night had begun. During the winter days that followed, Peary's men moved thousands of pounds of food and equipment

Hauling supplies on dog sleds. Supplies were taken to Cape Columbia during the long winter months.



to Cape Columbia. (See map on page 143.) They made igloos with blocks of snow, near the base of a steep hill. Here they stored the supplies they had brought from the ship. From this small camp, Peary planned to travel across the ice and snow to the North Pole.

Peary had made a careful plan for his long journey northward. He knew his plan must be perfect in every detail. One serious mistake would mean failure and perhaps death. He, his men, and their dog teams must walk nearly five hundred miles over the jagged polar ice to reach the North Pole. Then they must make the long return journey. If they ran out of food or became too tired, they would fail. Before they left for the North Pole, every man understood Peary's plan thoroughly.

Peary grouped his men into seven divisions. Although they would all follow the same trail, each division would travel northward separately. The leading division would break a trail through the ice and snow. When these men became too tired to continue, another division would take the lead and make a trail for the others to follow. Peary and the men in his division would always be last. He knew that they must save their energy for the final part of the dangerous journey. As they traveled northward, Peary planned to send one division after another back to Cape Columbia. He and his men would go on alone. By this time, there would be only enough food left for a few men to reach the North Pole.

By the end of January, Peary saw a faint glow appear on the southern horizon. The arctic night was ending. In the following weeks the men loaded their sleds and traveled to Cape Columbia. They were ready to begin their long journey northward.

A freezing east wind was blowing across the frozen Arctic Ocean as Peary and his men left Cape Columbia. Ahead of them, across nearly five hundred miles of ice and snow, was the North Pole.



Robert E. Peary made several journeys into the Arctic* before he succeeded in reaching the North Pole.

Day after day the explorers traveled northward over the frozen sea. Icy winds numbed their faces as they walked behind the heavily loaded sleds. At the end of each day's march, the weary explorers slept in igloos built by the men in the leading divisions. Weeks passed, and Peary saw one division after another turn back



Peary traveled by dog sled across nearly five hundred miles of ice and snow to the North Pole.

to Cape Columbia as he had planned. At last, Peary watched the last division disappear among the icy ridges to the south. Then he turned and looked northward again. He was only 153 miles away from the North Pole.

Now Peary took the lead. He urged his small party onward. At ten o'clock on the morning of April 6, his goal was almost within reach. Only a few miles lay between him and the North Pole. This moment had been Peary's dream and goal for many years. Yet the past five weeks of constant travel and worry now showed their effect on the fifty-two-year-old explorer. He was too tired to go on. Even though the end of his journey was so close, he had to

stop and rest. After a few hours of sleep, Peary awoke and wrote in his diary: "The Pole at last . . . I cannot bring myself to realize it. It all seems so simple and commonplace."

That evening, Peary traveled the few more miles across the ice. He carefully checked his instruments and took several readings to determine his exact location. He had reached the North Pole. It was April 6, 1909, when Robert Peary proudly raised the Stars and Stripes of the United States at the top of the world.

The explorers spent thirty hours at the North Pole. Then they began the long trip southward. On April 23, Peary reached the

Peary's expedition gave the world much scientific knowledge about the arctic region.



camp at Cape Columbia and wrote these words in his diary: "My life work is accomplished." After twenty-three years, the American explorer Robert Peary had done what men of other nations had attempted for nearly four hundred years.

DO YOU KNOW

1. With the help of the text and the picture on page 137, describe Peary's ship, the "Roosevelt." Why was this ship built especially strong?
2. Tell about Peary's plan for his journey from Cape Columbia to the North Pole. How long did this journey take?
3. Find Peary's route on the map on page 143.

The Stars and Stripes at the top of the world. Peary reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909.





Roald Amundsen was a Norwegian explorer. He devoted his life to the study of the polar regions.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN
ROALD AMUNDSEN
1872-1928

Early in September, 1910, the hot sun beat down upon a sturdy sailing ship anchored near the Madeira Islands.* Roald Amundsen, the captain of this ship, paced up and down the deck. In a few minutes he would make a startling announcement. He hoped he could find the right words. If he could not, his men might ask to

be released from duty, and his careful plans would never succeed. In a low tone Amundsen said to his first officer, "Please call the men."

"All hands on deck! All hands on deck!" The cry spread quickly, and soon seventeen members of the crew stood before the captain of the ship.

"Men," Captain Amundsen said, "as you know, we learned a year ago that Robert Peary had reached the North Pole. Most of us were disappointed. We had hoped that we would be there first. I announced, however, that our plans would remain the same. We would sail around South America, enter the Pacific, and sail northward into the Arctic Ocean. Although we could not be the first to reach the North Pole, we would explore the vast arctic region. I kept my real plans secret. Now that we are on our way, I can tell you that we are not going to the North Pole at all. Instead we will sail to the opposite end of the earth. We are going to the continent of Antarctica. If our expedition is successful, we shall be the first men to reach the South Pole!"

The surprised men were silent for a moment. Then they began to shout and clap each other on the back. One by one, they promised their captain that they would stay with him.

"Men," Amundsen said, "I am grateful for your confidence. However, we must remember that success is not certain. Even if we reach the Pole, we may not be the first. An Englishman named Robert Scott has already left on an expedition to Antarctica. However, I shall send Captain Scott a cablegram,* telling him we will race him to the South Pole!"

The men cheered and shouted, almost as if the South Pole had already been reached. Within a few hours, they were ready to sail. They pulled up the anchor, and watched eagerly as the sails filled

with wind. Like their captain, they were determined that the flag of Norway would be the first to fly at the South Pole.

For more than four months, the Norwegians sailed southward toward Antarctica. The sailors laughed and joked as they went about their work. They admired their quiet, studious captain and trusted his leadership. Five years before, Amundsen had completed a sea voyage through the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, along the northern part of

The "Gjøa." Amundsen and a crew of six sailed the "Gjøa" through the Northwest Passage.





In the Antarctic. * Amundsen and his men camped on an ice field that covered much of the Ross Sea.

North America. His men were confident that he could lead them safely to the South Pole.

By January 3, the Norwegians had entered the waters surrounding Antarctica. Eight days later, they saw ahead of them a gleaming wall of ice that seemed to rise out of the sea. This was the great Ross Barrier. Amundsen knew that this wall was the edge of a great field of ice that covered much of the Ross Sea. (See map on page 153.) If they were to reach the South Pole from this direction, Amundsen and his men would have to haul their supplies over this huge cliff of ice.

As the ship drew nearer, the explorers saw that here the Ross Barrier was about one hundred feet high. Its steep, glistening surface

stretched as far as they could see. Amundsen knew that huge chunks of ice often broke loose from the edge and floated away as icebergs. It would not be safe to land here.

Carefully, Amundsen guided his ship eastward into the Bay of Whales. (See map on page 153.) Other explorers had found that this part of the barrier had not moved for many years. Amundsen believed that here the ice rested on land and was not likely to float away. The Norwegians found a place in the bay where the edge of the ice was only twenty feet high. Amundsen ordered his men to unload supplies and set up camp. Then he sent his ship to South America for the winter. Amundsen and his men planned to stay on this cold and lonely ice field until they were ready to begin their dangerous journey to the South Pole.

Now Amundsen began preparing for the most difficult part of his expedition. It was nearly eight hundred miles from his camp to the South Pole. He and his men would have to be well prepared for this long journey. Amundsen knew that it would be difficult if they were burdened with all of the supplies they would need. However, he had planned his trip carefully. He had decided to place food and equipment in a series of storehouses along the route that they would take. On their journey to the Pole, he and his men would travel from one storehouse to the next. They would never be far from food and supplies.

With three men, Amundsen set out to build the first storehouse. Sleds were loaded with boxes and crates of food. These were pulled across the ice by powerful Eskimo dogs which Amundsen had brought to Antarctica. The men skied along beside the sleds. From time to time, they stopped and marked their path with black flags. After five days, they reached their destination, about one hundred miles from camp. There the men unloaded food and



Amundsen prepared to travel nearly eight hundred miles from his camp to the South Pole.

supplies. They covered these with blocks of ice. Then they followed their trail of black flags back to camp.

A few days later, Amundsen led a team of eight men back across the ice. They passed the first storehouse and continued southward for seventy miles. After leaving crates of food in a second storehouse, three men returned to camp. Amundsen led the others farther south, where they built a third storehouse and then returned to camp. Each of these storehouses was farther from camp and nearer the Pole.

By April it was getting colder, for this was the beginning of the antarctic winter. The sun disappeared below the horizon and would not rise again until spring. It was always dark outside. During this

Eskimo dogs pulled Amundsen's sleds across the ice and snow toward the South Pole.





Amundsen raised Norway's flag at the South Pole in 1911, after crossing nearly 800 miles of ice.

season, the southern part of the earth is tipped so that the sun's rays do not reach Antarctica. Amundsen knew that no one could travel to the Pole during this long winter night. He and his men stayed in camp, checking and repairing their equipment and instruments. Often they wondered if Scott had already reached the South Pole.

By the time spring came in late September, Amundsen had chosen four men and fifty-two dogs to accompany him to the South Pole. They began their journey on October 19. Travel was difficult and blizzards sometimes made it hard for them to see ahead. At times, men and dogs fell into huge cracks in the ice. They were pulled to safety with strong ropes. Now the men saw that Amundsen's plan to store food along the trail was a good one. The lightly loaded sleds traveled swiftly over the snow. By November, the

Norwegians had passed their last storehouse. They struggled onward across high mountains and steep glaciers. As they traveled they built five more storehouses, where they left supplies for the return trip.

Finally the party reached a wide plain, where progress was easier. Now Amundsen looked anxiously for tracks in the snow. If he should find any sign that Captain Scott had already crossed this icy plain, he would know that he was too late. There were no tracks. Everything was quiet. The gentle crunching of skis and sleds against the snow could be clearly heard in the still, cold air.

On December 14, 1911, Roald Amundsen stopped and looked at his watch. It was three o'clock in the afternoon. Carefully, he

Amundsen was the first explorer to reach the South Pole and to fly over the North Pole.





The "Norge." In this airship, Amundsen flew from Europe to America across the North Pole.

checked his instruments. "Gentlemen," he said quietly, "I am certain that we are at the South Pole." Amundsen explored the land around the South Pole for three days. Then he led his men back across the ice toward camp.

When he finally returned to Norway, Amundsen was greeted by cheering friends. People all over the world invited him to visit their countries and tell them about the South Pole. Many months passed before he learned the fate of Captain Scott and his men. They had reached the Pole to find a small tent and a letter from Amundsen. The disappointed Englishmen turned back. But blizzards and terrible storms delayed this party of weary, saddened men. They died on the icy, lonely continent of Antarctica.

Although Amundsen had reached the South Pole, he still longed to go to the North Pole. In 1926, he flew over the North Pole in

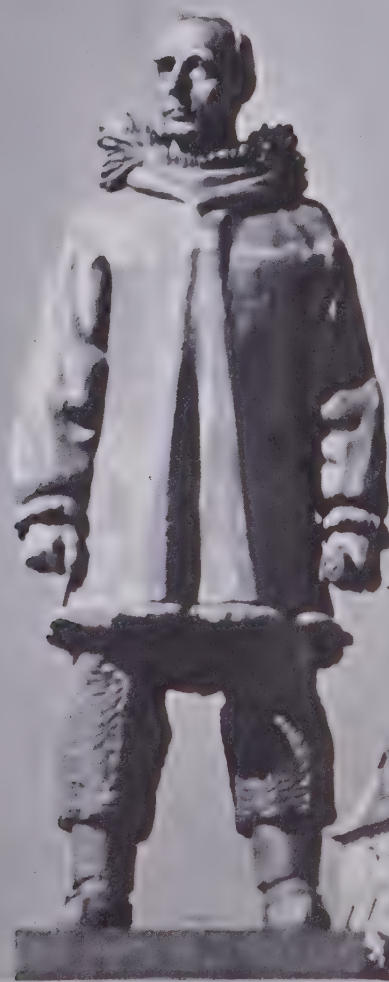
an airship. Now he had accomplished more than any other polar explorer of his time. Roald Amundsen decided to retire.

Something happened, however, which called Amundsen once again to the arctic region. In 1928, an Italian airship crashed in the far North, and the survivors radioed for help. Amundsen decided to fly northward and attempt to rescue them. He was never heard from again. Months later, some wreckage from his airplane was found. Roald Amundsen, a courageous leader and a great explorer, had died in the frozen wilderness which he loved so well.

—DO YOU KNOW—

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Tell one reason why Amundsen's men trusted him as a leader. | plies on their journey from camp to the South Pole and back? |
| 2. How did Amundsen make sure that he and his men would have enough food and supplies on their journey from camp to the South Pole and back? | 3. What were Amundsen's other great achievements in exploration? |

Amundsen gave his life trying to rescue the crew of an airship wrecked in the far North.



Great Explorers of the World

- 982? A.D.** **Eric the Red**, a brave Viking chief, explored the southwest coast of Greenland and founded the first Greenland settlement.
- 1000? A.D.** **Leif Ericson**, son of Eric the Red, reached the shores of North America.
- 1271-1295** **Marco Polo**, an Italian adventurer, traveled through many countries in Asia.
- 1418-1460** **Henry the Navigator**, of Portugal, sent ships to explore the western coast of Africa. His studies improved the compass and shipbuilding.
- 1487-1488** **Bartholomeu Dias**, a Portuguese explorer, succeeded in sailing around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa.
- 1492-1503** **Christopher Columbus**, an Italian explorer who sailed for Spain. Columbus believed he could reach Asia by sailing west. Instead, he discovered the West Indies. Later he sailed along the coasts of Central and South America.
- 1497-1498** **John Cabot**, an Italian, explored much of the northeastern coast of North America for England.
- 1497-1507** **Amerigo Vespucci** of Italy made several voyages to the West Indies and South America. The new lands were named America in his honor.
- 1497-1498** **Vasco da Gama**, a Portuguese explorer, was the first European to reach the Indies by an all-water route. He sailed around Africa to India.
- 1500-1501** **Pedro Alvares Cabral** reached the coast of Brazil for Portugal.
- 1513** **Vasco Núñez de Balboa**, a Spanish explorer, led an expedition across the Isthmus of Panama in Central America. Discovered the Pacific Ocean.
- 1513** **Juan Ponce de León** explored Florida's east and west coasts for Spain.
- 1519-1521** **Hernando Cortes** conquered Mexico for Spain.
- 1519-1522** **Ferdinand Magellan**, a Portuguese explorer, commanded the first voyage around the world. He was the first European to reach the East Indies by sailing westward.
- 1526-1530** **Sebastian Cabot**, an Italian, explored South America's east coast.
- 1531-1535** **Francisco Pizarro**, a Spaniard, explored Peru in South America.
- 1534-1536** **Jacques Cartier**, a French explorer, discovered the Saint Lawrence River in Canada. First European to explore the interior of Canada.
- 1539-1542** **Hernando de Soto**, a Spanish adventurer and explorer, discovered the Mississippi River. Explored much of the southeastern part of North America.
- 1540-1542** **Francisco Vázquez de Coronado** of Spain explored the regions in the United States that are now California, Texas, Oklahoma, and eastern Kansas.
- 1541** **Francisco de Orellana** of Spain explored and named the Amazon River.
- 1576** **Sir Martin Frobisher**, an English explorer, searched the North American coast for a northwest passage.
- 1577-1580** **Sir Francis Drake** sailed around the world for England.
- 1596** **Willem Barents** commanded an expedition to the Arctic Ocean and discovered Spitsbergen for the Dutch.
- 1602-1607** **Bartholomew Gosnold** explored New England's coast in North America. He and Captain John Smith founded Jamestown, the first permanent English colony in North America.
- 1603-1615** **Samuel de Champlain**, a Frenchman, explored Canada as far westward as Lake Huron. Discovered Lake Champlain and founded the city of Quebec, Canada.
- 1609-1610** **Henry Hudson**, an Englishman, explored the Hudson River in North America for the Dutch. Later, he discovered Hudson Bay for England.

- 1616 William Baffin**, an English explorer, sailed far north along the northeastern coast of North America and discovered Baffin Bay.
- 1642 Abel Janszoon Tasman**, a Dutch explorer, discovered Tasmania and New Zealand in the South Pacific Ocean.
- 1673 Père Jacques Marquette**, a Jesuit missionary from France, explored the Mississippi River southward to within 700 miles of the Gulf of Mexico.
- 1669-1673 Louis Joliet**, a Frenchman, explored the Lake Superior region of North America. Traveled down the Mississippi River with Père Marquette.
- 1681-1682 René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle** traveled to the mouth of the Mississippi River and claimed the entire valley of the Mississippi for France.
- 1725-1741 Vitus Bering**, a Danish explorer, commanded a Russian expedition which explored the coast of northeast Asia and the Bering Strait region.
- 1769-1779 James Cook** of England explored and charted much of the South Pacific Ocean. Made three voyages around the world.
- 1789 Sir Alexander Mackenzie**, a Scotsman, explored northwest Canada. Discovered the Mackenzie River.
- 1792 George Vancouver**, an Englishman, sailed around Vancouver Island, near the Pacific Coast of North America.
- 1804-1805 Meriwether Lewis and William Clark**, American explorers, led an expedition across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast.
- 1805-1807 Zebulon Montgomery Pike**, an American, explored the Middle West and part of the Rocky Mountain region of the United States. Discovered Pikes Peak.
- 1838-1845 John Charles Frémont**, an American, explored much of western North America. Is known as "the pathfinder."
- 1849-1855 David Livingstone**, a Scotsman, was the greatest of all Africa's explorers. Discovered Victoria Falls, Lake Ngami, and the source of the Zambezi River.
- 1870-1885 Nikolai Przhevalski**, a Russian, explored Mongolia and western China. Crossed the Gobi Desert and Tibet.
- 1874-1889 Sir Henry Stanley**, a Welshman, explored Africa's Nile and Congo rivers. Discovered the "Mountains of the Moon," in eastern Africa.
- 1878-1880 Nils Nordenskjöld** of Sweden was the first to sail around northern Europe to Asia.
- 1888-1895 Fridtjof Nansen**, a Norwegian explorer, was the first to cross the ice fields of Greenland. Later, Nansen attempted to reach the North Pole.
- 1903-1926 Roald Amundsen** of Norway was the first to sail through the Northwest Passage, from sea to sea. In 1911, he was the first to reach the South Pole. Later, Amundsen flew across the North Pole in an airship called the "Norge."
- 1907-1931 Sir Douglas Mawson**, an English explorer, reached the South Magnetic Pole in 1909. Led two expeditions into the antarctic regions.
- 1909 Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton**, an Irish explorer, located the South Magnetic Pole after much exploration of the antarctic regions.
- 1909 Robert Edwin Peary**, an American explorer, was the first to reach the North Pole.
- 1911-1930 Roy Chapman Andrews**, an American, explored Korea, Tibet, and the Gobi Desert in Asia.
- 1912 Robert Falcon Scott**, an Englishman, reached the South Pole just 34 days after Roald Amundsen's expedition.
- 1913-1937 Donald Baxter MacMillan**, an American, explored Labrador, Greenland, and Baffin Land.
- 1926 Umberto Nobile** of Italy flew over the North Pole in an airship he had designed himself.
- 1926-1929 Richard Evelyn Byrd**, American explorer, flew over both the North and South poles.
- 1958 Dr. Vivian Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary** crossed the continent of Antarctica in 99 days.

GLOSSARY

Your study of Great Explorers will be more interesting if you take time to use this glossary. You should turn to this glossary each time a word that you read in the text is marked with an asterisk (*), unless you clearly understand the word. The letters that appear inside the brackets following each word show you how the word should sound when it is correctly pronounced. The capital letters used in indicating the pronunciation show you which syllable of the word is to receive the chief stress, as: **bazaars** (*buh ZARZ*).

The meaning of each word in the glossary is explained to help you understand better the text and pictures of this book. You will learn much more about the great explorers if you will use this glossary.

antarctic. Pertaining to the ocean and regions that lie south of the Antarctic Circle. See **Antarctic Circle**.

Antarctica. The frozen, ice-capped continent that surrounds the South Pole.

Antarctic Circle. An imaginary line around the earth, about 1,600 miles north of the South Pole.

Arab. The name of a people who live chiefly in Arabia and in North Africa.

arctic (*ARK tik*). Pertaining to the regions and ocean that lie north of the Arctic Circle. See **Arctic Circle**.

Arctic (*ARK tik*) **Circle.** An imaginary line around the earth, about 1,600 miles south of the North Pole.

astrolabe (*AS tro layb*). An instrument used by early seamen to determine the time and their position on the seas.

Balboa, Vasco, 1475-1517. A Spanish adventurer and explorer. Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama in Central America and discovered the Pacific Ocean.

bazaars (*buh ZARZ*). In Africa and Asia, market places or streets of shops.

Bering Strait. A sea passage connecting the Pacific and Arctic oceans. Located between the mainlands of Asia and North America.

bone needle. A needlelike tool made of bone. Used by Indian fishermen to make and mend fishing nets.

Botany Bay. An inlet of the South Pacific Ocean, on the southeastern coast of Australia.

cablegram. A message sent by an under-sea cable.

Cano (*KAH noe*), **Juan Sebastián del.** A Spanish sea captain. In one of Magellan's ships, the "Victoria," he completed the first voyage around the world.

Charbonneau (*shar buhn NOE*), **Toussaint** (*too SAHN*). A Canadian fur trapper. He and his wife, Sacagawea, served as guides for the Lewis and Clark expedition. See **Sacagawea**.

Chicago River. A small river in northeastern Illinois, at the site of the present city of Chicago.

East. The countries of Asia, especially those of eastern Asia. See **Indies**.

East Indies. See **Indies**.

Eric the Red. A red-bearded Viking chief. About 982 A.D., he left his home in Iceland and began a settlement on the island of Greenland. See **Vikings**.

Great Wall of China. A huge wall made of earth, stone, and brick, in northern China. It extends 1,500 miles eastward from the interior to the eastern coast. The Great Wall was built by the Chinese during the third century B.C.

Haiti (*HAY tee*). The original name for the island of Hispaniola in the West Indies. Now refers to the republic located on the western third of the island.

Indian Ocean. The body of water lying east of Africa. It is bounded by Africa on the west, Asia on the north, and Australia on the east.

Indies. A name used by Europeans during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries for the islands and countries of southern and eastern Asia.

inn. A public dwelling, or lodging place.

Jamaica (*juh MAY kuh*). An island in the West Indies, about 95 miles south of Cuba. Discovered by Columbus in 1494.

Jesuit (*JEHZ yu it*). A member of a certain Roman Catholic religious order.

Lake Saint Clair. Located between southeastern Michigan and Ontario, Canada. It is part of a chain of waterways between Lake Huron and Lake Erie.

Lisbon. A great seaport and the largest city in Portugal. In the sixteenth century, the residence of the King of Portugal was in Lisbon.

longboats. Large rowboats carried by sailing vessels.

Madeira (*muh DEER uh*) **Islands.** A group of islands in the North Atlantic. Located about 600 miles southwest of Lisbon, Portugal.

Malindi (*muh LIHN dih*). A seaport on Africa's eastern coast. Da Gama landed here in 1498 and erected a monument which is still standing today.

Mascouten (*mas KO ten*) **Indians.** A tribe of Indians who once lived in Wisconsin, Illinois, and southern Michigan.

Montreal (*mahn tree AWL*). The largest city in Canada. It is located on the Saint Lawrence River. Named after Mount Royal, a hill that rises in the center of the city. Cartier gave this hill its name in 1535.

Moors. An ancient people from northwestern Africa, who intermarried with the Arabs and adopted their language and religion. See **Arab**.

musket. The name for a kind of firearm used by soldiers and hunters before the rifle came into general use.

Norse. Pertaining to the peoples who lived in ancient Scandinavia, or their language.

Nova Scotia (*NO vuh SKO shuh*). A coastal province in eastern Canada. Cape Breton Island, visited by Cabot in 1497, is part of Nova Scotia.

Patagonians (*pat uh GO nih uhnz*). The people who live in a region called Patagonia, near the southern tip of South America.

Persia (*PUHR zhuh*). An ancient kingdom in southwestern Asia. Now called Iran.

Philippines (*FIL uh peenz*). A group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. Located east of southeastern Asia. The first Europeans to visit these islands were Magellan and his men, in 1521.

rawhide. The untanned skin of cattle.

Rio de Janeiro (*REE o duh juh NAY ro*). Seaport city located on Rio de Janeiro Bay along the eastern coast of South America. Former capital of Brazil.

Rio de la Plata (*REE o day lah PLAH tah*). An estuary, or arm, of the Atlantic Ocean on the eastern coast of South America. The waters of two rivers empty into the Río de la Plata.

Sacagawea (*sak uh guh WEE uh*). A famous American Indian woman. With her husband, she guided the Lewis and Clark expedition through the Rocky Mountains.

Sagres (*SAH gresh*). A village on the southwestern coast of Portugal.

Saint-Malo (*suh MAHLOW*). A seaport located on a rocky island along the coast of northwestern France. It is the birthplace of Jacques Cartier.

San Julián (*sahng hoo LYAHN*). An inlet of the Atlantic Ocean on the coast of Argentina, in South America.

scurvy. A disease caused by the lack of fresh fruits and vegetables in a person's diet.

Seville (*suh VIL*). An inland port city on the Guadalquivir River in southwestern Spain. After Columbus' voyage in 1492, it became the main trading city of the Spanish colonies in America.

Shangtu (*SHAHNG DOO*). A village in northeastern China, on the Lwan River. Was once the site of Kublai Khan's summer palace.

Spice Islands, or **Moluccas** (*mo LUK uhz*). A group of small islands in the Pacific and Indian oceans, between Australia and the mainland of southeastern Asia. First visited by the Portuguese in the early 1500's. See **East Indies**.

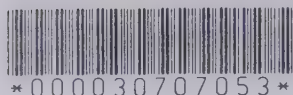
Strait of Detroit. A waterway in southeastern Michigan that connects Lake Saint Clair with Lake Erie. Today, it is called the Detroit River.

Straits of Mackinac. A waterway which separates the upper and the lower peninsulas of Michigan. These straits connect Lake Michigan with Lake Huron.

Viking (*VI king*). See **Vikings**.

Vikings (*VI kings*). Daring Scandinavian warriors who raided the coasts of Europe from about 800 to 1050 A.D. Made many voyages of discovery and settlement throughout the North Atlantic.

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